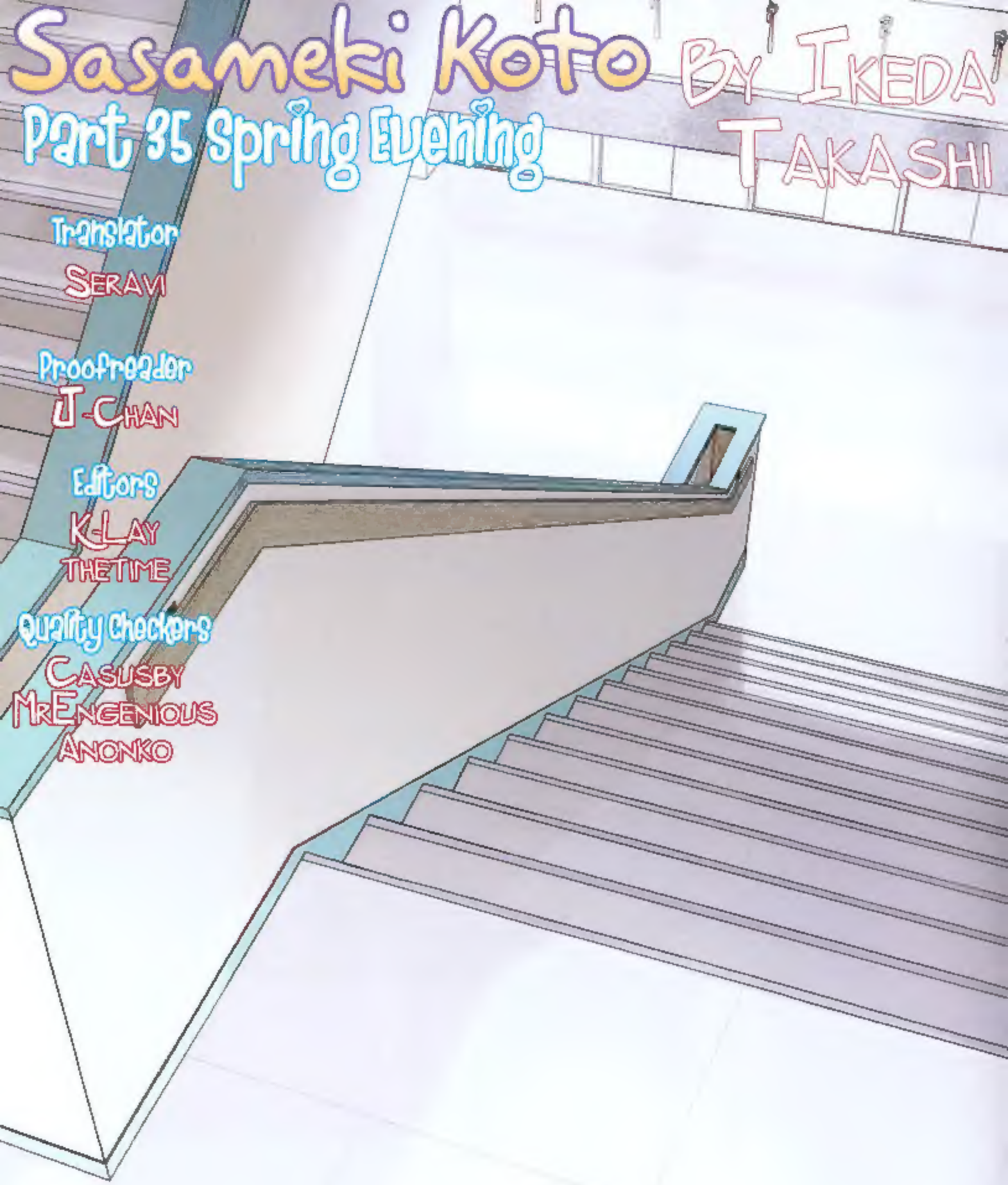
Sasameki Koto

Part 35 Spring Evening

By Ikeda Takashi



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ささめきこと 7

いけだたかし

Presented by

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ささめきこと 7

いけだたかし

『ささめきこと⑦』の
発売日はわたしの誕生日です。
嬉しいなあ」

志村貴子も読んでます!!

「志村貴子×いけだたかし」
対談を特別収録!

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9784840133869

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1929979004767

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MEDIA FACTORY

遂に想いが通じ合った純夏と汐。
二人を見て、自身の変化に気付くマユとそれを見つめる恋乃……。
「いつもまっすぐ感じたまんま」恋乃の言葉に、決意を固めるマユ。
季節は秋となり、純夏は生徒会長選挙に立候補することになるが、
対立勢力が純夏の評価を下げるために怪しく蠢く。
想うことを描いた学園ドラマ、ささめきは次第にざわめきへ――。

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MFコミックス いけだたかしの本

ときめきこと ①～⑦（以下続刊）

FADE OUT 全2巻

いけだたかし短編集 プラトニック・ホーム

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2010秋デジタル臨時増刊号にて掲載！
アプリケーションは無料配信中です！

34歳無職さん

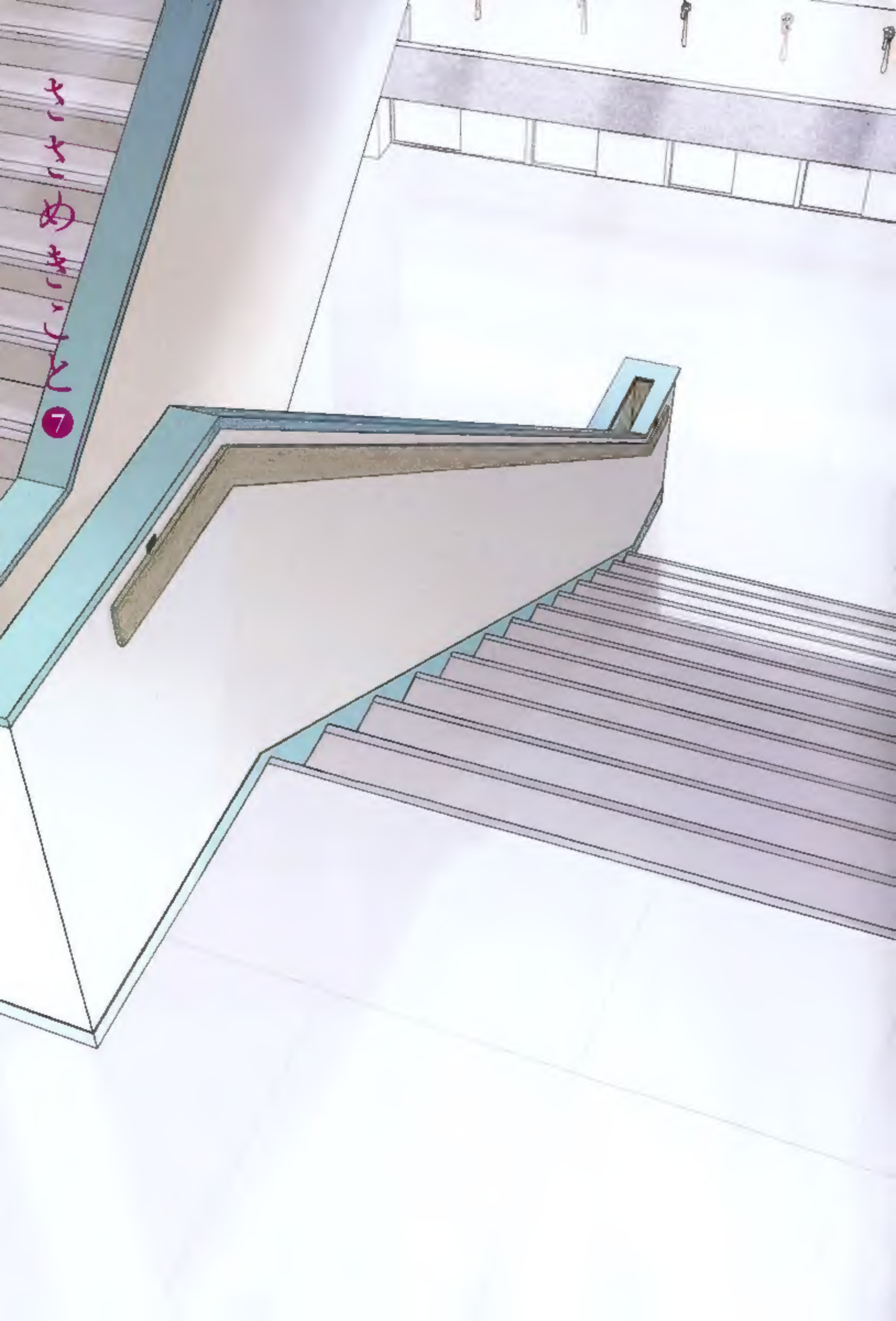
いけだたかし

いけだたかし

TAKASHI IKEDA

疲労ピーク故に妙なテンションの後書きは、
己への戒めとしてそのままにしておきます。

Illustration：いけだたかし
Design：小林博明（Kプラスアートワークス）


ささめきこと 7

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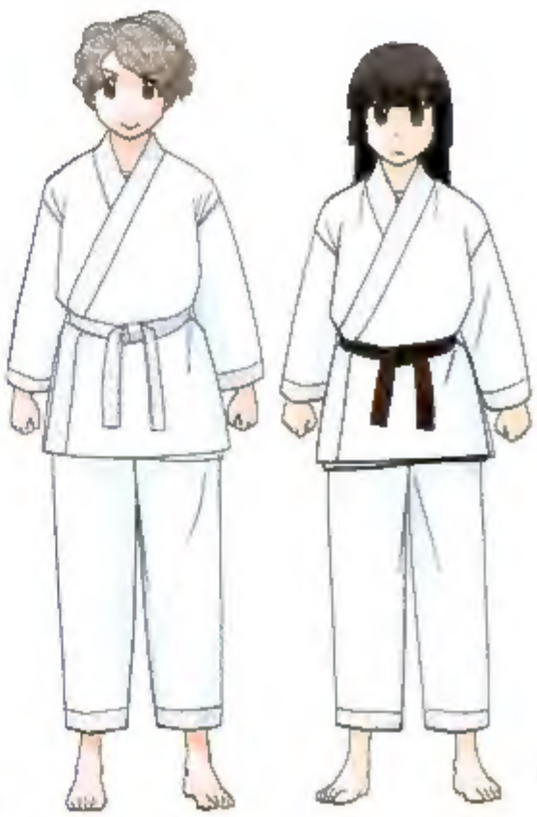
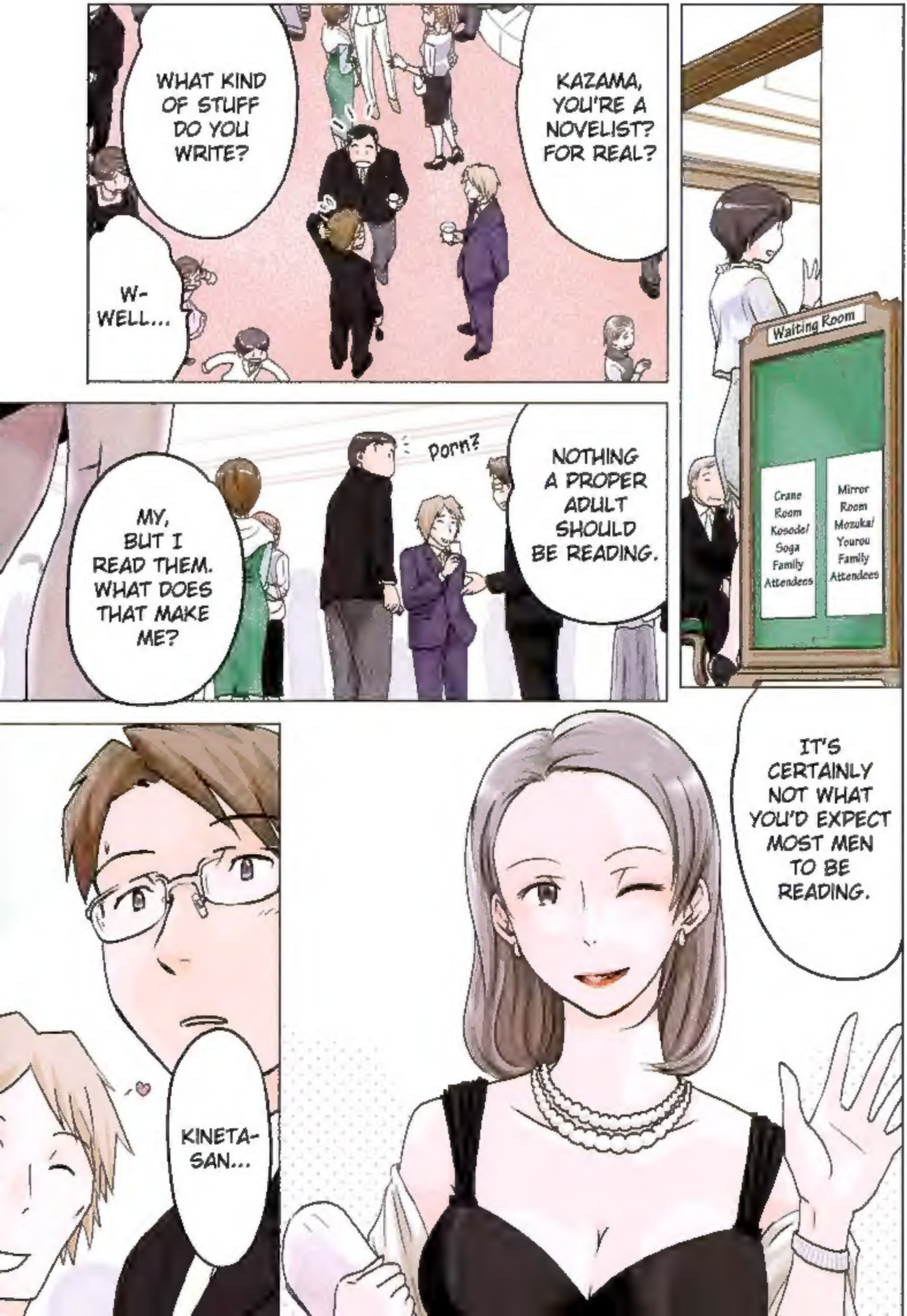
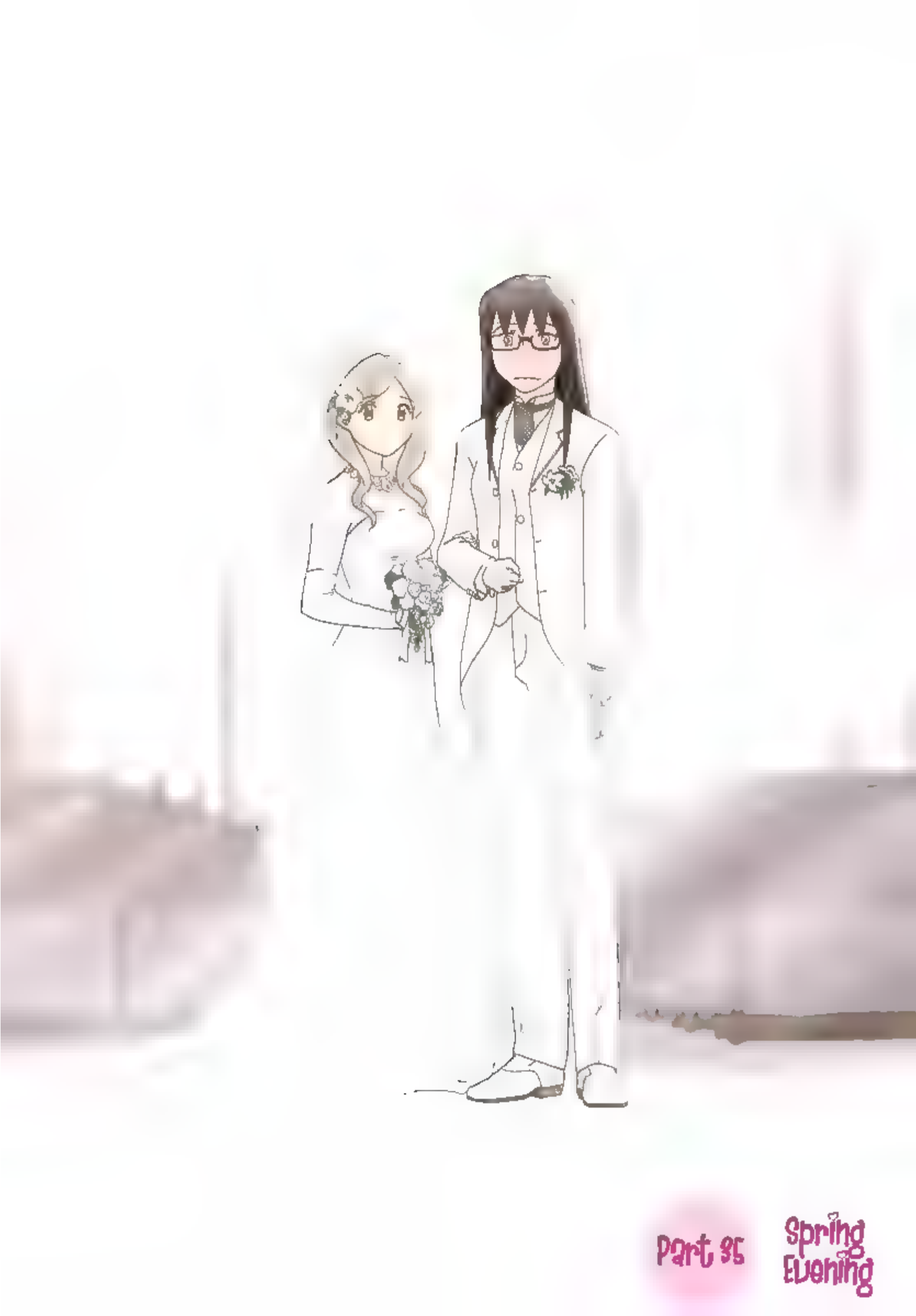



KAZAMA, YOU'RE A NOVELIST? FOR REAL?
WHAT KIND OF STUFF DO YOU WRITE?
W-WELL...
Waiting Room
Crane Room Kosode/ Soga Family Attendees
Mirror Room Mozuka/ Yourou Family Attendees
NOTHING A PROPER ADULT SHOULD BE READING.
Porn?
MY, BUT I READ THEM. WHAT DOES THAT MAKE ME?
IT'S CERTAINLY NOT WHAT YOU'D EXPECT MOST MEN TO BE READING.
KINETA-SAN...

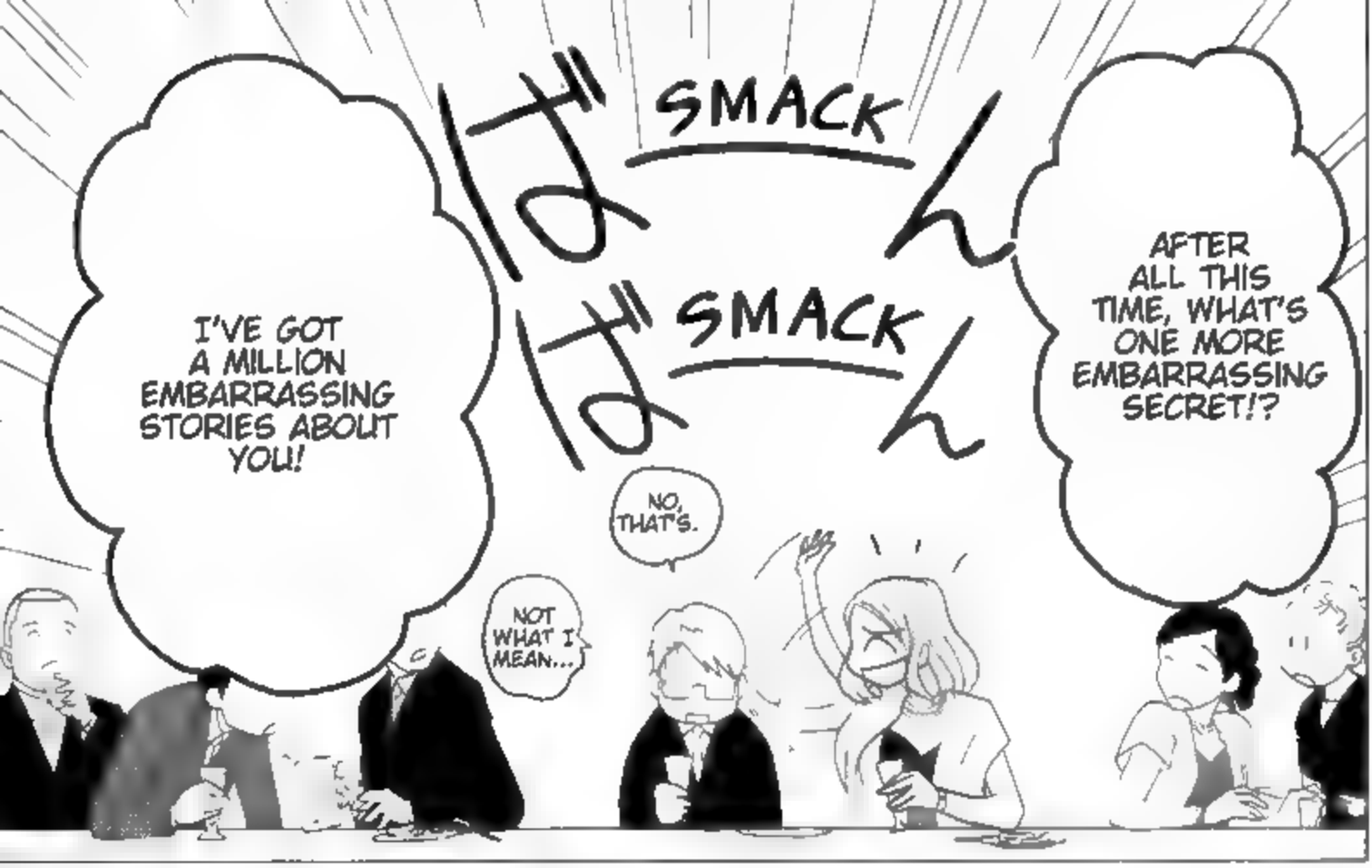


Part 35

Spring Evening

WELCOME BACK, NEE-CHAN!
DID YOU BRING US ANY PRESENTS!? WELL?
WEL-COME HOME, KOI.
HOW WAS THE PARTY?
Oh, hello there Mayu-chan.
Presents!
Presents!
IT WAS FUN.
Oh, it's Mayu.
JUST KIDDING. HERE ARE SOME SNACKS.
These are home-made.
KOI, I'M GOING TO GET...
YAY!
Awwww
SORRY. ALL MY FRIENDS ARE BIG EATERS, SO THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT.

IT'S LATE. WHY NOT STAY OVER?
OKAY
Oh, but we have school tomorrow
I have to deal with my uniform
You can just wake up a bit earlier
LET ME TELL YOU, IT REALLY CAUGHT ME OFF-GUARD.
YES, WELL. .
I'VE NEVER READ ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE.
UM...
KINETA-SAN, PLEASE...
WHEN I REALIZED IT WAS AN ANAGRAM OF "KAZAMA NORIO," I WAS LIKE "NO WAY!"
I JUST HAPPENED TO SPOT YOUR PEN NAME.


SMACK
SMACK
I'VE GOT A MILLION EMBARRASSING STORIES ABOUT YOU!
AFTER ALL THIS TIME, WHAT'S ONE MORE EMBARRASSING SECRET!?
NO, THAT'S.
NOT WHAT I MEAN...

KINETA-SENPAI AND KAZAMA-KUN HAD BEEN DATING FOR A LONG TIME.
WHAT? YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
KAZAMA, YOU BAS-TARD!
STUT
THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN.

YOU CAN'T LET THE READERS FIND OUT, HUH?
OH. REALLY?
So if you could keep it down
WHAT I MEAN IS THAT ORINO MASAKA'S IDENTITY IS A SECRET.

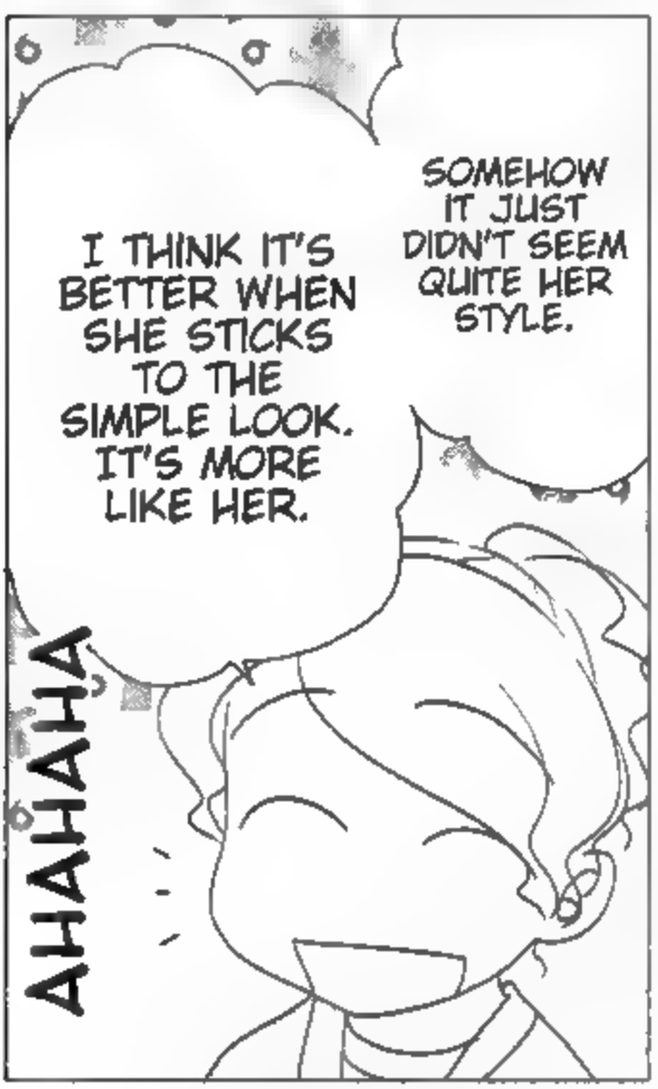
MEN ARE SO DENSE WHEN IT COMES TO THIS STUFF.
I know, right?

HEHE...
I HAVE A HARD TIME ACTING THE PART.
PLUS, I'M STILL JUST A WRITER ON THE SIDE.
YOU'RE STILL AS TIMID AS EVER.
BUT I COULDN'T BREAK YOU.
MOST PEOPLE ARE, COMPARED TO YOU.
FAIR ENOUGH.

IN THE END, YOU STILL PICKED YOUR LITTLE SISTER OVER ME.
DASH
Ee——k!
BATH'S OPEN.
WOULD YOU GIVE IT UP ALREADY? GEEZ.
CRUSHING DEFEAT
ONE MORE TIME! MAYU, ONE MORE TIME!
You two get into your pajamas too
I'LL LEND YOU A PAIR OF MY PAJAMAS.
MAYU-CHAN, YOU CAN GO NEXT.

DAMN IT! WHY CAN'T I BEAT HER!?
THAT'S OBVIOUS. MAYU-CHAN STARTED DOING KARATE AT A YOUNGER AGE THAN YOU DID.

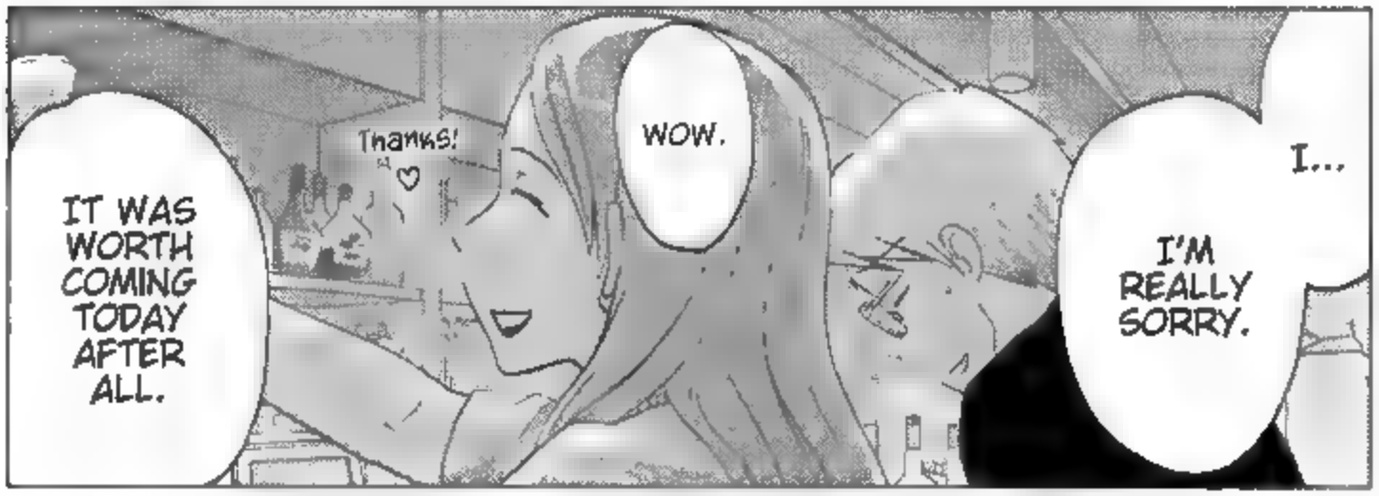
HMPH.
WELL, I GUESS WE'LL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT FOR TODAY.

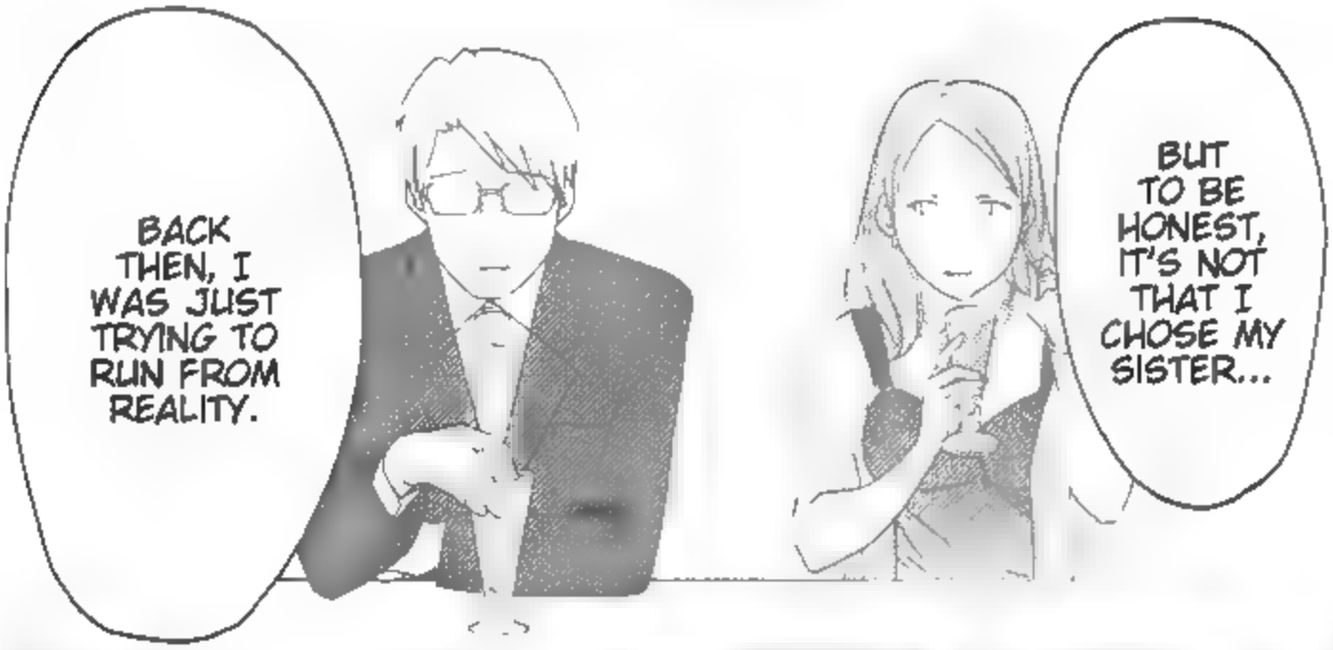

SOMEHOW IT JUST DIDN'T SEEM QUITE HER STYLE.
I THINK IT'S BETTER WHEN SHE STICKS TO THE SIMPLE LOOK. IT'S MORE LIKE HER.
AHAHAHA

TODAY ...
SORRY ABOUT THAT, MAYU-CHAN.
Is your arm sore?

HMM?
MURASAME-SEMPAI ...
SHE...
OH, YOU MEAN HOW SHE HAD HER HAIR UP?

UM...?
UH
I'M GLAD MY TEARS WEREN'T FOR NOTHING
I SEE
THANKS TO YOU
OF COURSE I DID
I CRIED ALONE IN THAT TRAIN THE ENTIRE WAY HOME
YOU CRIED?
IS YOUR SISTER DOING WELL?


I...
I'M REALLY SORRY.
WOW.
Thanks!
IT WAS WORTH COMING TODAY AFTER ALL.


BUT TO BE HONEST, IT'S NOT THAT I CHOSE MY SISTER...
BACK THEN, I WAS JUST TRYING TO RUN FROM REALITY.

I WAS NOTHING BUT A FREELANCE WRITER WHO DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE FREEDOM TO PICK WHAT HE WORKED ON.
COULD I REALLY MAKE THINGS WORK WITH NOT ONLY AN UPPERCLASSMAN, BUT THE DAUGHTER OF A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY? WHAT IF I STOPPED BEING GOOD ENOUGH?
THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THE MORE FEARFUL I BECAME...

WHAT THE HELL IS-
AND THAT'S THE EXCUSE
THAT I JUST MADE UP.
FEEL ANY BETTER?
...YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF FREEDOM.
TAP
HERE I THOUGHT I COULD TEASE YOU A LITTLE BIT. TALK ABOUT BORING.
I'M GOING TO CATCH UP WITH THE OTHERS.
WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT OVER HERE? HUH!?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU HAD SERIOUSLY DATED KINETA-SENPAI?
SLAM

SO LAME...
LET'S GREET THEM WITH A THUNDEROUS ROUND OF APPLAUSE!
CHEER
AFTER A BIT OF A COSTUME CHANGE AND WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, ALLOW ME TO PRESENT THE BRIDE AND GROOM!
EVERYONE, IT'S THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR!

HAHA. PATHETIC
SHE DUMPED ME
WHAT? YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU DIDN'T TRY TO GET BACK WITH HER?
REALLY NOW?
I'M OFFERING TO DO THIS OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF MY HEART FOR YOU SINGLE CHAPS.
AREN'T YOU MARRIED?
WE GOT A GROUP DATE OFFER. A GROUP DATE!
SOME GIRLS FROM THE BRIDE'S SIDE ASKED US.

HUH? KAZAMA-KUN?
YEAH. WE TAKE THE SUBWAY.
YOU GOING THIS WAY TOO?
A MAN DOESN'T TRULY TASTE ADULTHOOD UNTIL HE'S GOT A FAMILY, YOU KNOW.
Wahahaha
You sound like an old man.
HMM? NO.
HUH...
WEREN'T YOU WITH KINETA-SEMPAI?
KINETA-SAN LIVES OUT IN THE COUNTRY RIGHT NOW.
AND HERE I WAS SURE YOU TWO SLIPPED OFF TOGETHER ...
MAYBE SHE HAD TO LEAVE EARLY TO MAKE THE BULLET TRAIN.
WEIRD.
DID SHE LEAVE EARLY BY HERSELF?

SHE WASN'T IN A HURRY TO GET BACK.
APPARENTLY HER PARENTS ARE PUSHING HER INTO MEETING MEN FOR ARRANGED MARRIAGES.
You two
ON AN UNRELATED NOTE, HER CELL PHONE NUMBER IS THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
IT'S PRETTY DANGEROUS AROUND HERE THIS TIME OF NIGHT.
I'M RATHER WORRIED.
Good ☆ luck!

RIIIING
SOME PARK.
DRINKING A CANNED BEER ALL ALONE.
What are you doing?
Where are you right now?
YEP.
YOU SHOULD JUST SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE HAVING SOME ILLICIT AFFAIR WITH YOUR ADORABLE LITTLE SISTER, YOU IDIOT!
SHUT UP, COWARD!
That's not what I mean!
DON'T YOU HAVE TO GO DOTE ON YOUR SISTER?

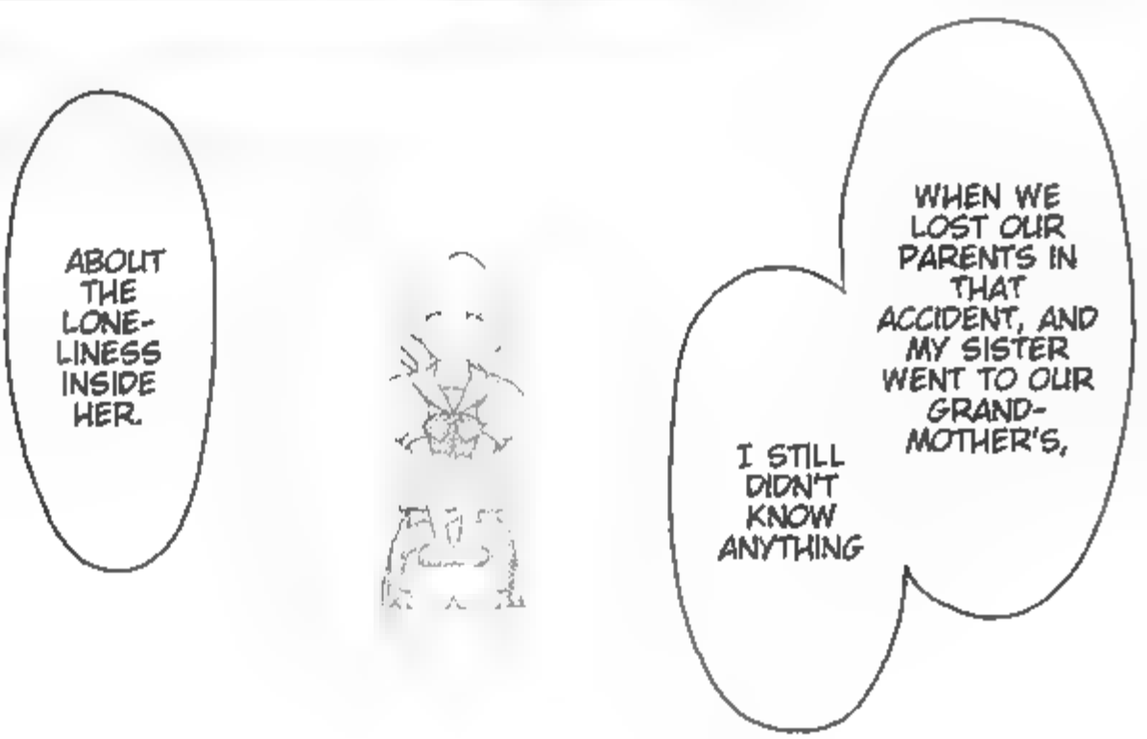
I'M SO DAMN LAME.
CAME ALL THIS WAY AN' GOT ALL DOLLED UP JUST TO SEE SOME GUY WHO DUMPED ME AGES AGO
BUT I WANTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YER KINDNESS AN' ASK FOR ANOTHER CHANCE
EVEN IF IT MEANT I'D HAVE TO GO AN' BEG A YOUNGER MAN TO TAKE ME BACK...
I CAN' STAND BEIN' LIKE THIS!
SO STAY AWAY!
I HATE YA!
YER TOO DAMN NICE... YER JUS' GONNA GO AN' GET MY HOPES UP AGAIN.

I ALREADY SAID I HATE YA!
KINETA-SAN
STAY AWAY!
GET OUTTA HERE, SISTER-COMPLEX! AN' DON' COME BACK!!
THE MORE I GOTTA THINK 'BOUT YA
THE LAMER AN' LAMER I BECOME!!

GET GOIN', IDIOT!
GET!
SHOO!!
GO-
YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK,
AYAE-SAN

WHY YA GOTTA BE SO DAMN NICE?
...I DON'T KNOW.
...IDIOT.
WHY YA GOTTA CALL ME BY MY NAME LIKE YA USED TO?

BUT, EVEN SO...
RIGHT NOW, MY SISTER STILL NEEDS MY KINDNESS MORE THAN YOU DO.


ABOUT THE LONE-LINESS INSIDE HER.
WHEN WE LOST OUR PARENTS IN THAT ACCIDENT, AND MY SISTER WENT TO OUR GRAND-MOTHER'S,
I STILL DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING

NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW HOW MUCH SHE STRUGGLED AND SUFFERED, UNABLE TO CHANGE WHO SHE WAS.
THAT'S WHY, WHEN MY GRANDMOTHER LEFT HER ALL ALONE AGAIN, I MADE UP MY MIND. I CAN DO IT...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, NO MATTER WHAT SHE DOES...
I'LL NEVER ABANDON HER.

YOU MAY BE RIGHT
YA REALLY ARE AN IDIOT...
YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
SOME DAY SHE'S GONNA LEAVE YA BEHIND FOR SOME OTHER GUY.
A SISTER'S JUS' A SISTER IN THE END.
YOU MAY BE RIGHT...
AN' YOU'LL GO TO SINGLES PARTIES AN' SOME CRAZY GAL'S GONNA WRAP YA 'ROUND HER FINGER.
AN' WHEN THAT DAY COMES, YER ALREADY GONNA BE AN OL' MAN.

SHE WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST CRAZY GAL TO WRAP ME AROUND HER FINGER.
IDIOT...
Grab
HUH?
Clock

HUH?
BUT THEY'RE BOTH STILL SIXTEEN YEAR OLDS.
AND I DO THINK SUMIKA-CHAN CAN TAKE CARE OF THINGS
HE!?
USHIO SAYS SHE'S ALL RIGHT..
I'M GONNA
KILL HIM!
Hang in there!
I said I was sorry!
Come on, Nagu-chan!

Useless Addition #35

WELCOME HOME.
HOW WAS THE CEREMONY?
IT WAS REALLY SOMETHING.
I SAW A LOT OF MY FRIENDS FROM MY SCHOOL DAYS, SO THAT WAS FUN.
WAS YOUR GIRLFRIEND THERE?
WHA-
WHA- WHA- WHATEVER COULD YOU MEAN?
GRANDMA TOLD ME ABOUT IT.
SHE SAID YOU HAD A GIRL YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT MARRYING.
JUST SO YOU KNOW...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT ME ANY MORE.

ささめきこと ❶

Sasameki Koto

Part 36 Underclassmen

Takashi

Dagger

J-chan

K-Lay

Kanzar MrEngenious

About the pinwheel on page 35...
There's no real "note" that one can put there to help it make more sense, especially when there's no cultural meaning behind it. Basically, Sumika had a BSOD and the pinwheel is imitating the loading screen seen in video games.

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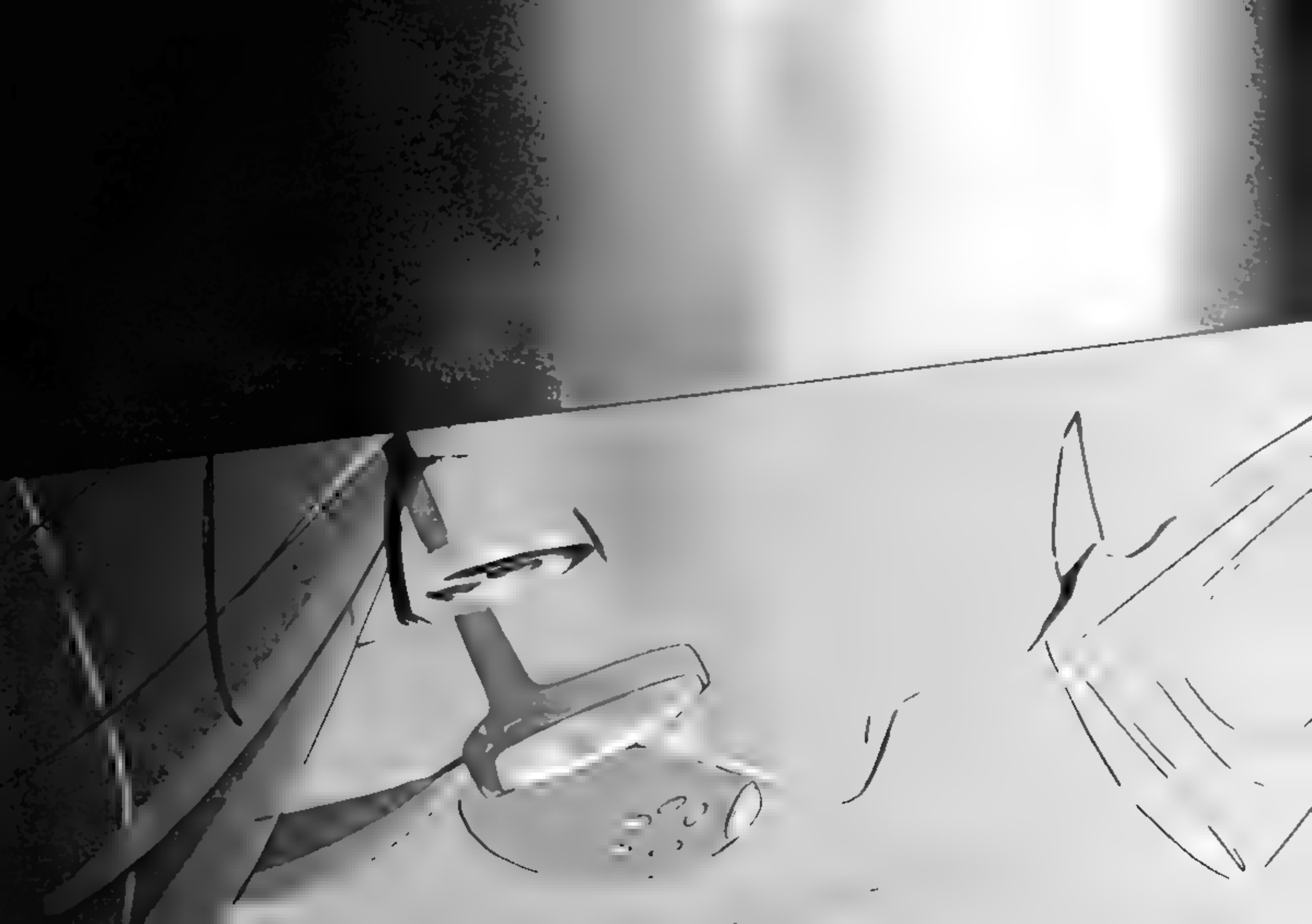
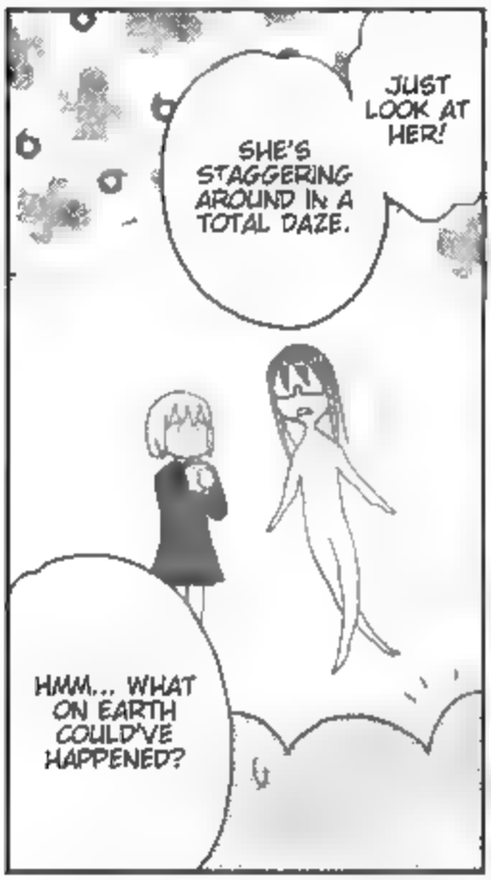
I WONDER
...SO SUMI-CHAN.
DID YOU FIGURE OUT THE ANSWER?
WHAT DID SHE REALLY MEAN?
HOW ABOUT A HINT? ANYTHING?
I REALLY COULDN'T COME UP WITH ANYTHING.
SOME-THING MORE WONDER-FUL THAN CUTE?
?
SOMETHING MORE WONDERFUL THAN CUTE
THEN
COULD YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR A SECOND?
KAZAMA?
THE ANSWER IS.

Part 56 Underclassmen



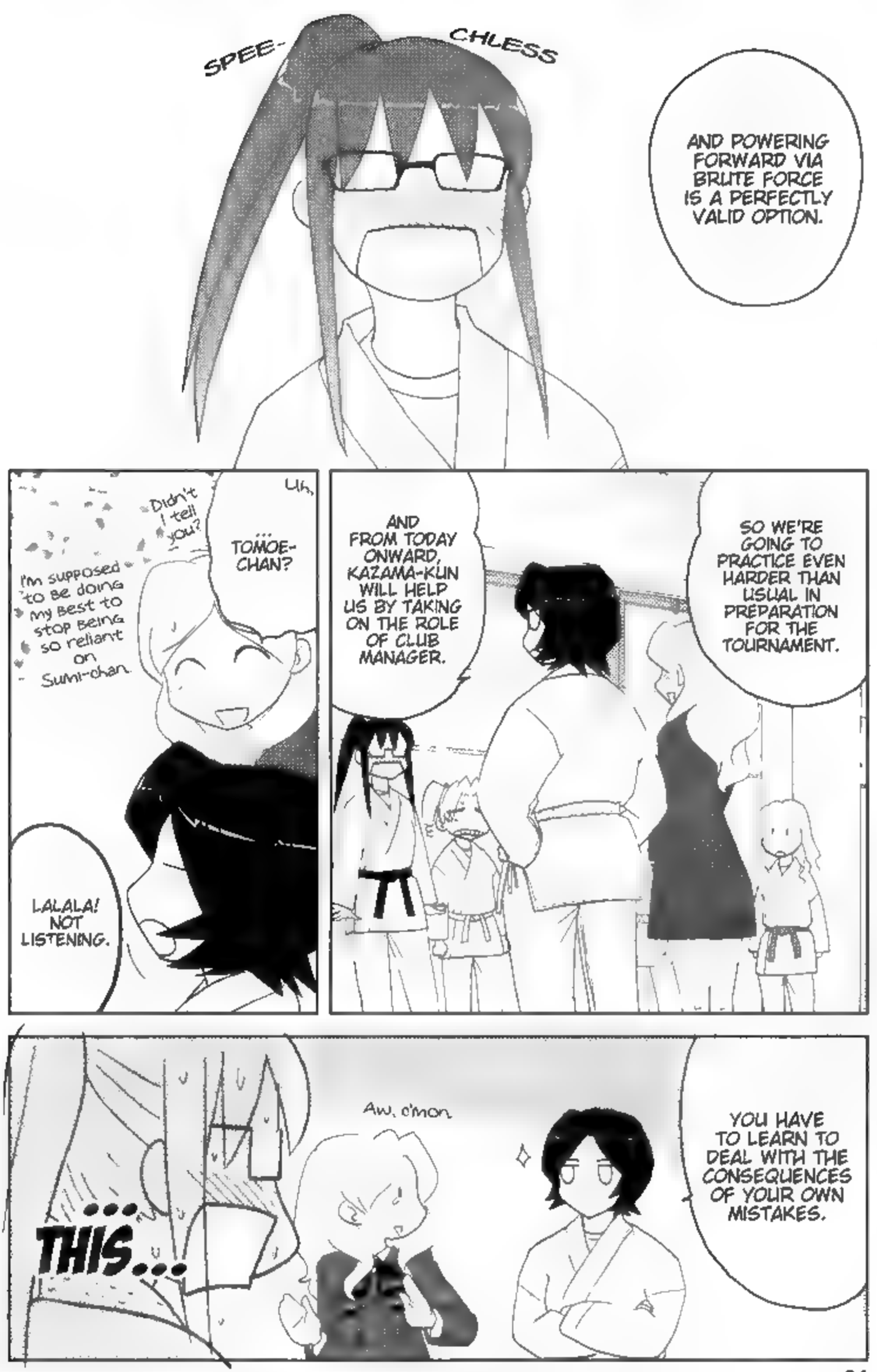
8古鷹加子
9津田八千
10 Murasame Sumika
11箱崎九
12
16 15尾
187 490 49


JUST LOOK AT HER!
SHE'S STAGGERING AROUND IN A TOTAL DAZE.
HMM... WHAT ON EARTH COULD'VE HAPPENED?

MURASAME IS ONLY RANKED 10TH?
WOW, THIS IS A BIG DEAL.
gossip
gossip
How scary
WHAT'S NEXT? IS HELL ABOUT TO FREEZE OVER?

MAYBE SHE'S... LOVESICK?
NO WAY.
IMPOS-SIBLE.
RIDICU-LOUS.
Hah hah hah
GOOD GRIEF.
SEE THE HAVOC YOU'VE WREAKED, KAZAMA-KUN?

SORRY.
I JUST COULDN'T HELP IT...
LOOK AT MY FEET! THEY'RE COVERED IN CALLUSES!!
I'M GONNA KICK YOUR BUTT IF THIS MEANS I'VE RUINED MY FEET FOR NOTHING!!
THE SAD FATE OF A YOUNG MAIDEN'S BARE FOOT
THE TOURNAMENT IS NEXT WEEK! NEXT WEEK!!
GAAAAAAD
SORRY AIN'T GOOD ENOUGH! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU GONNA DO TO FIX THAT?
WELL, WE CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST.
Save me, Tomoe-chan
UM,
WH- WHAT SHOULD I DO?


SPEE-
CHLESS
AND POWERING FORWARD VIA BRUTE FORCE IS A PERFECTLY VALID OPTION.
Uh,
....TOMOE-CHAN?
Didn't I tell you?
I'm supposed to be doing my best to stop being so reliant on Sumi-chan.
LALALA! NOT LISTENING.
AND FROM TODAY ONWARD, KAZAMA-KUN WILL HELP US BY TAKING ON THE ROLE OF CLUB MANAGER.
SO WE'RE GOING TO PRACTICE EVEN HARDER THAN USUAL IN PREPARATION FOR THE TOURNAMENT.
...THIS...
Aw, c'mon.
YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR OWN MISTAKES.

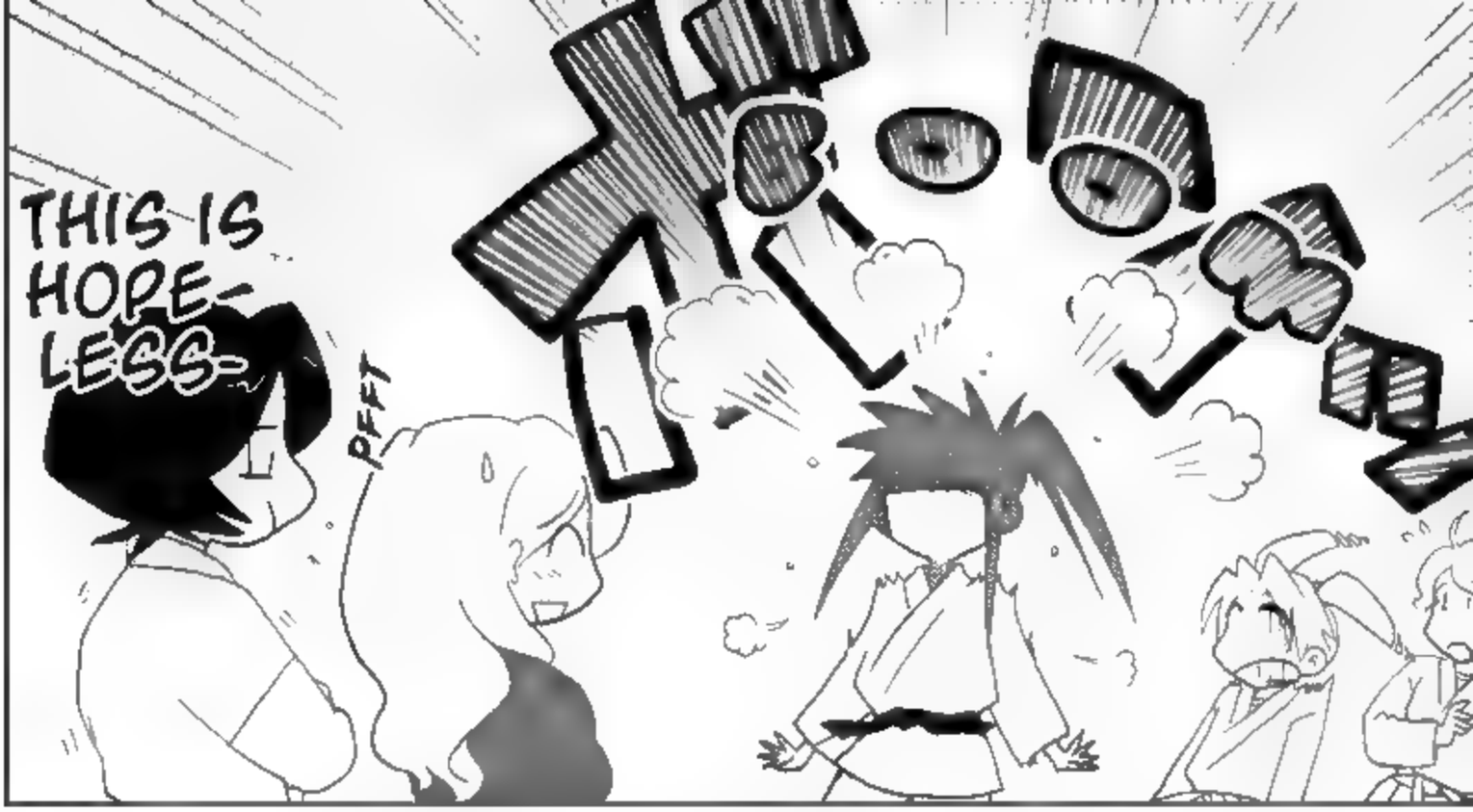
THIS IS...

...NAH, OF COURSE NOT. THIS MUST BE SOME NEW DIABOLICAL PLOT OF HACHI'S... BUT I STILL HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO ASK KAZAMA ABOUT THE TRUE MEANING OF WHAT SHE SAID AND DID THAT DAY. MAYBE HACHI IS TRYING TO BE CONSIDERATE TOWARD ME, IN HER OWN WAY. SHE SEEMS PRETTY DARN SERIOUS ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT, AND RIGHT NOW I'M BASICALLY DOING ALL OF THE MISCELLANEOUS CLUB CHORES ON MY OWN; I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT IT'D BE NICE IF ONLY WE HAD A MANAGER... WAIT, THIS IS AWESOME! I'LL HAVE A NEW PRETEXT TO GO TO AND FROM SCHOOL TOGETHER WITH KAZAMA. I WOULD'VE FELT AWKWARD INVITING HER TO JOIN THE CLUB AFTER I FLAT-OUT DENIED HER BUDDING INTEREST IN IT EARLIER. GOOD JOB, HACHI! ☆ BUT SERIOUSLY, ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT KAZAMA'S TRUE INTENTIONS WERE WHEN SHE DID THAT STUFF THE OTHER DAY...

Twirl Twirl

"🎡"

↑ Rainbow Pinwheel


THIS IS HOPE-LESS-
PFFT

Hehehehehe
YOU GOTTA DO SOME-THING ABOUT HER, TOMOE-CHAN.
WHAT A MESS.

IT'S A GOOD THING MAYU-CHAN CAUGHT A COLD AND HAD TO STAY HOME TODAY
WELL, I GUESS
She'd feel compelled to blurt out something inappropriate again if she saw Senpai in this state.
SIGH

OH, SORRY.
MM?
TOMOE... CHAN?

...Sumika gets like this sometimes.
She's been acting strange for a while now.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO MURASAME-SEMPAI?

...I'M SORRY FOR COMING LATE.
Cough
MAYU-CHAN!
Stagger
I CAN'T AFFORD TO SKIP PRACTICE WITH THE TOUR-NAMENT COMING UP SO SOON...
ARE YOU OKAY? DO YOU FEEL BETTER NOW?
SWAY
SWAY
SORRY ABOUT THIS. I'LL ESCORT HER HOME.
SEE? YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO SEMPAI.
What a ragtag bunch.
YOU OUGHT TO GO HOME. DON'T FORCE YOURSELF TO STAY HERE.
IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO REST UNTIL YOU'VE COMPLETELY RECOVERED.

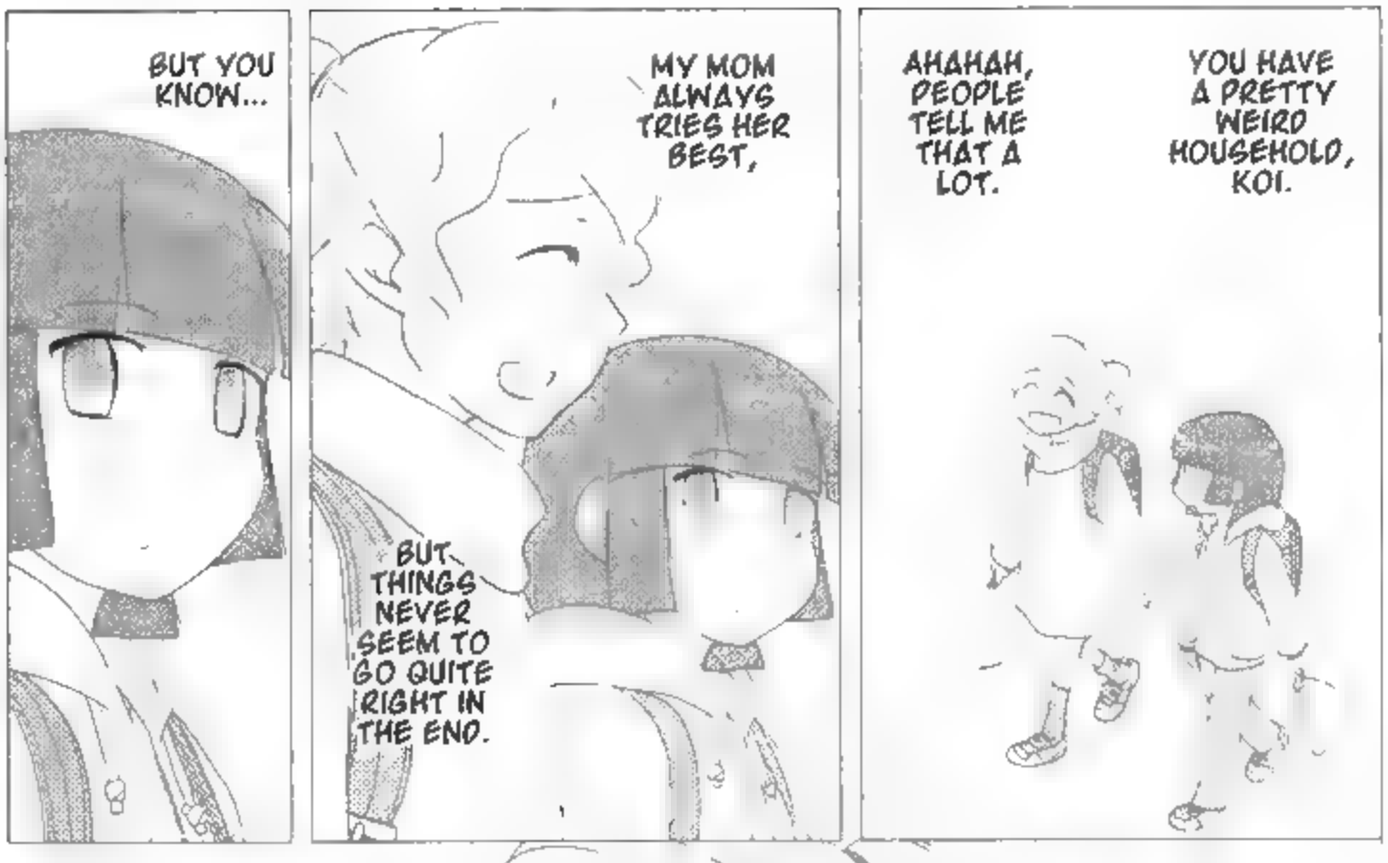
I'LL LEAVE HER IN YOUR HANDS, THEN.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT'S A GOOD SOLUTION.
AH, YEAH.
YOU'RE A PROPER CLUB MEMBER, KOINO-CHAN, SO YOU'D BETTER FOCUS ON PRACTICE.
I'LL TAKE HER HOME INSTEAD.
MAKE SURE TO GET SOME SLEEP!
HAHA
I— I'm fine
Terminal dysfunctional wise
You're useless.
Wh- where's Kazane?
Gasp!
I'M THE CLUB MANAGER NOW. I HAVE TO DO MY JOB.
NAH, I DON'T MIND.
...SORRY FOR MAKING YOU GO TO THE TROUBLE OF...
RATTLE
Vrrrm

I'M JUST DOING THIS ON A TEMPORARY BASIS SINCE EVERYONE'S TOO BUSY PREPARING FOR THE TOURNAMENT RIGHT NOW
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT KARATE BUT I HOPE I'LL BE ABLE TO HELP
OH, I SEE
AH
THE MANAGER
YOU WEREN'T THERE WHEN WE DISCUSSED IT
SEMPAI
YOU'RE VERY CLOSE TO MURASAME-SEMPAI, AREN'T YOU

AH, B- BUT SEMIMARU-SAN, YOU'RE QUITE CLOSE TO KOINO-CHAN, RIGHT?
I HEAR THAT YOU GO TO SCHOOL TOGETHER EVERY MORNING, EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS YOU ACTUALLY HAVE TO TRAVEL FARTHER. THAT'S IMPRESSIVE.
Y- YEAH, MORE OR LESS.
BUMPITY BUMPITY
W- WE'VE BEEN BEST FRIENDS SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL, I GUESS.
BUMPITY BUMPITY
...IT'S IMPRES-SIVE?
BUT... I...
I'VE... ALWAYS DONE THAT.
KOI IS BASICALLY MY ONLY FRIEND.
I ALWAYS ...

ALWAYS THOUGHT IT'D BE NICE IF THINGS WOULD STAY THIS WAY FOREVER..
Tattle-tale!
snicker snicker
Right on!
I DID THE RIGHT THING.
WHY ARE THEY TREATING ME LIKE THAT?
EVERYONE STARTED LEAVING ME OUT FOR SOME REASON.
BUT AFTER I DID THE RIGHT THING,
PEOPLE ALL TELL US WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO THE RIGHT THING

BECAME AN OUTCAST, TOO.
AND KOI
She's got cooties!
Ew cooties
YOU SHOULD JUST IGNORE 'EM.
IT LOOKS DIFFERENT TO EVERYONE, BUT IT'S PRETTY MUCH THE SAME DEEP DOWN. SO DON'T GET TOO HUNG UP ON THE SMALL STUFF.
Oh, well, no matter
Or would it be better to say that there are as many different types of "right" as there are people?
WHAT'S RIGHT AND WRONG COMES IN ALL KINDS OF SHAPES, JUST LIKE PEOPLE THEMSELVES.
HER FATHER CHANGES FROM TIME TO TIME.
KOI'S MOTHER IS YOUNG AND PRETTY.
Eat up eat up


BUT YOU KNOW...
MY MOM ALWAYS TRIES HER BEST,
BUT THINGS NEVER SEEM TO GO QUITE RIGHT IN THE END.
AHAHAH, PEOPLE TELL ME THAT A LOT.
YOU HAVE A PRETTY WEIRD HOUSEHOLD, KOI.

IS THE "RIGHT" WAY TO LIVE, AT LEAST FOR HER.
MY MOM SAYS THAT BEING COMPLETELY HONEST ABOUT WHAT'S IN HERE

CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER

I'M ABLE TO STAY TRUE TO WHAT'S HERE INSIDE ME.

...YES. THANKS TO KOI,

HOW'S SEMIMARU-SAN?
SHH
SHE'S FAST ASLEEP.
RUSTLE
WE BOUGHT SOME APPLES.
THEN I'LL MAKE APPLE-SAUCE.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE KITCHEN IS? THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYONE HOME.
YES, I'LL SHOW YOU.
CLICK

OH, MAN.
I FAIL AT BEING CLUB PRESIDENT I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THAT ONE OF THE CLUB MEMBERS WASN'T FEELING WE...
I'VE GOTTA SHAPE UP.
I'LL HAVE TO PUT MY WORRIES ABOUT KAZAMA ON THE BACK BURNER, FOR THE TIME BEING
Shake Shake Shake
Eheh
AH
OH.
SORRY. DID I WAKE YOU?

BLUS
H
Ah
WHOA! YOU'RE BRIGHT RED, SEMIMARU-SAN.
Auu
WAIT JUST A SEC. I'LL BRING YOU A COLD COMPRESS!
Uh
Um
Er
WHAT IS IT?
No-thing
?
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE ME TO GET FOR YOU?
Ah
Uu
Well
uh-
Um
Um.

AND NOW FOR A BRIEF INTERMISSION.
GYAAAAAAH!
VOOOOOM!
I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS!!
TELL SEMIMARU-SAN NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT.
WELL, I JUST FEEL LUCKY THAT I HAD MY KARATE UNIFORM WITH ME.
I'M SOOOOO SORRY!!
There's still a lingering stink...
WE HAVE SLEEP-OVERS A LOT.
I'M USED TO THIS.
WE CAN STAY HERE UNTIL HER PARENTS COME HOME...
BUT WILL YOU BE OKAY BY YOURSELF, KOINO-CHAN?
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
OKAY. IN THAT CASE, HAVE A GOOD NIGHT.

creak
I SOMETHING S WRONG WITH ME
ES

NO!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S NO BIG DEAL
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT
YOU'RE WRONG
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH ME
WHENEVER I'M FACED WITH MURASAME-SENPAI

I WASN'T LIKE THIS BEFORE.
I START ACTING ALL WEIRD...
EVEN THOUGH I'M FINALLY ABLE TO PRACTICE KARATE WITH HER.
EVEN THOUGH I ALWAYS... ALWAYS LOOKED UP TO HER.

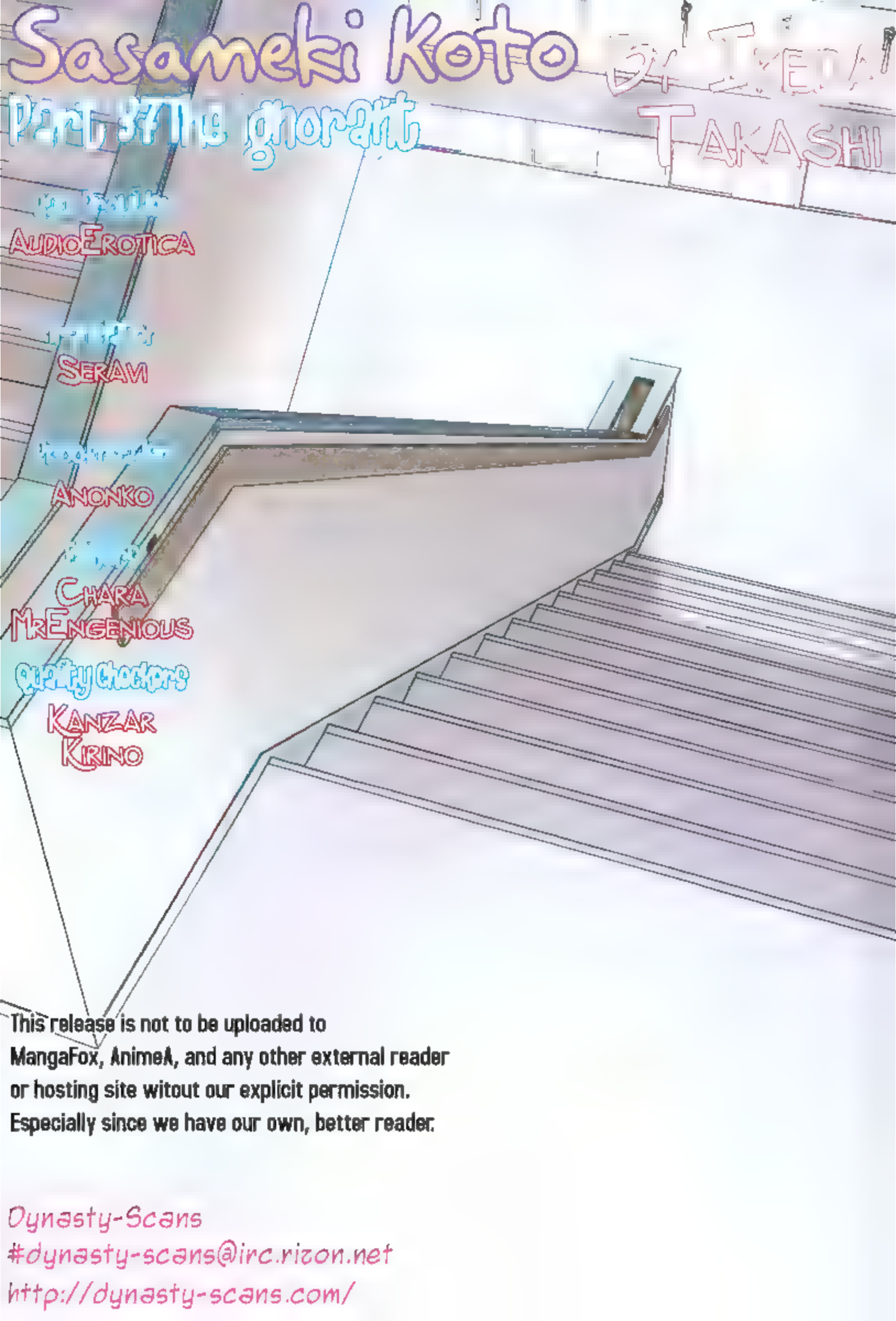
JUST LOOKING AT MURASAME-SEMPAI MAKES ME...

WAIT
WHAT EXACTLY
ARE YOU
EH?

Useless Addition #36

Vrrrrrrm
mm
mm
mm
BUMPITY
BUMPITY
BUMPITY

ささめきこと ❼



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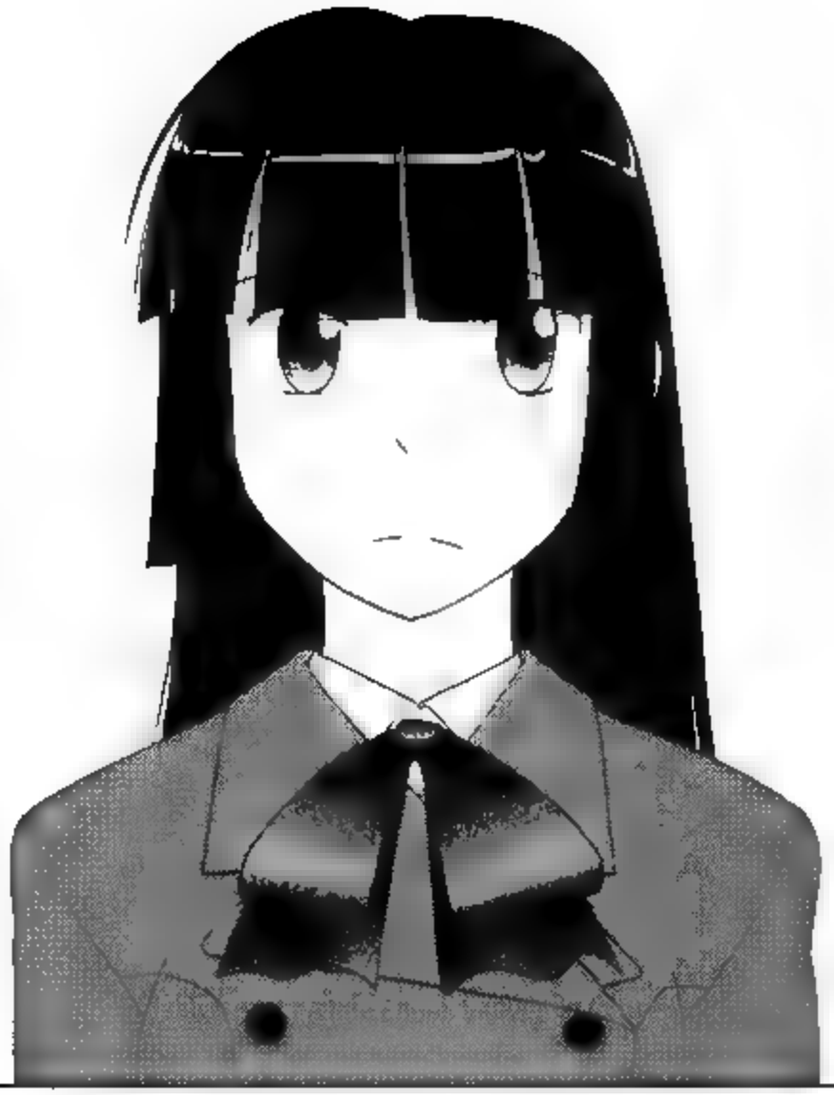


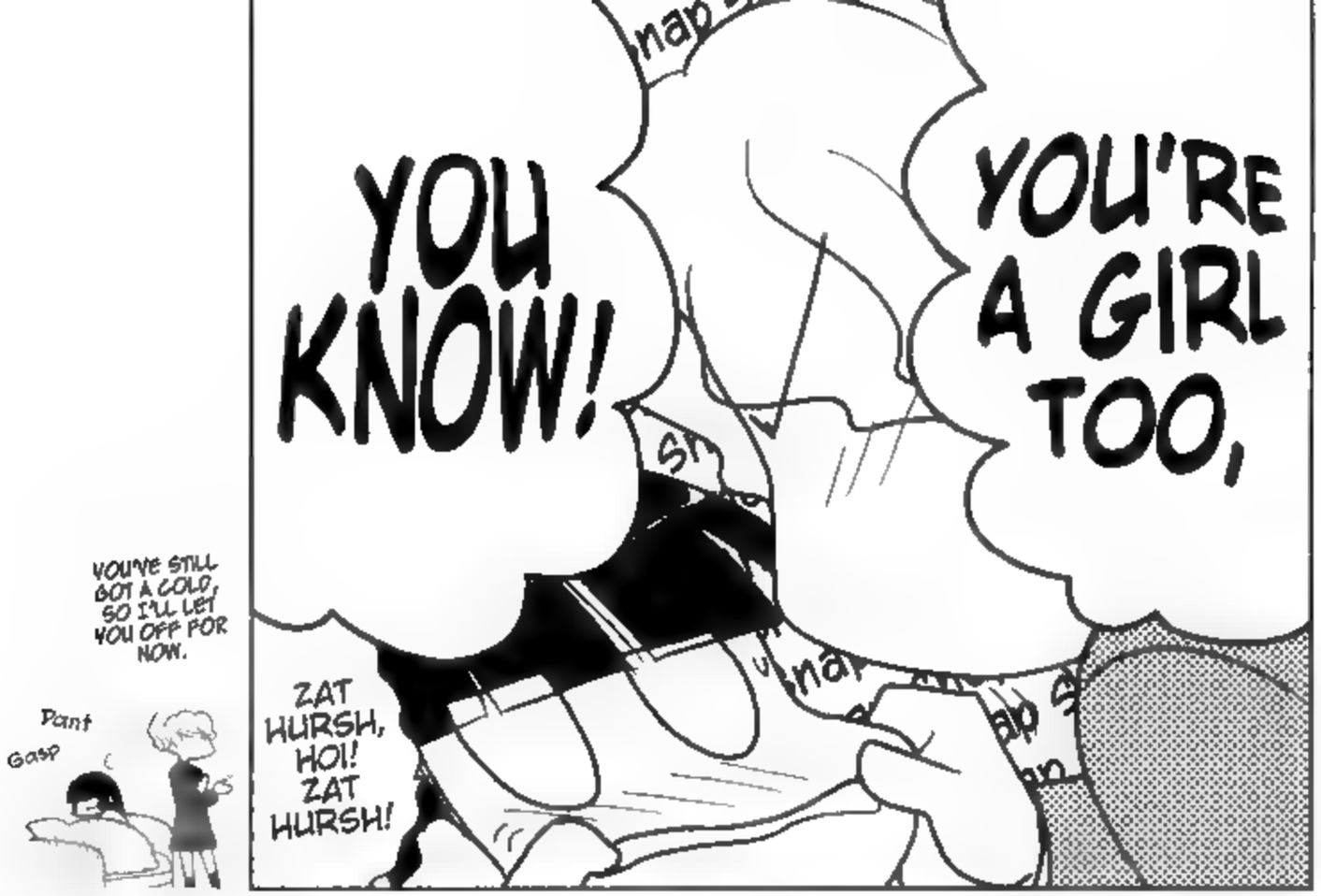
Part 87 The Ignorant

B
2
1
1
Grrr...
Grrr...
Grrr...

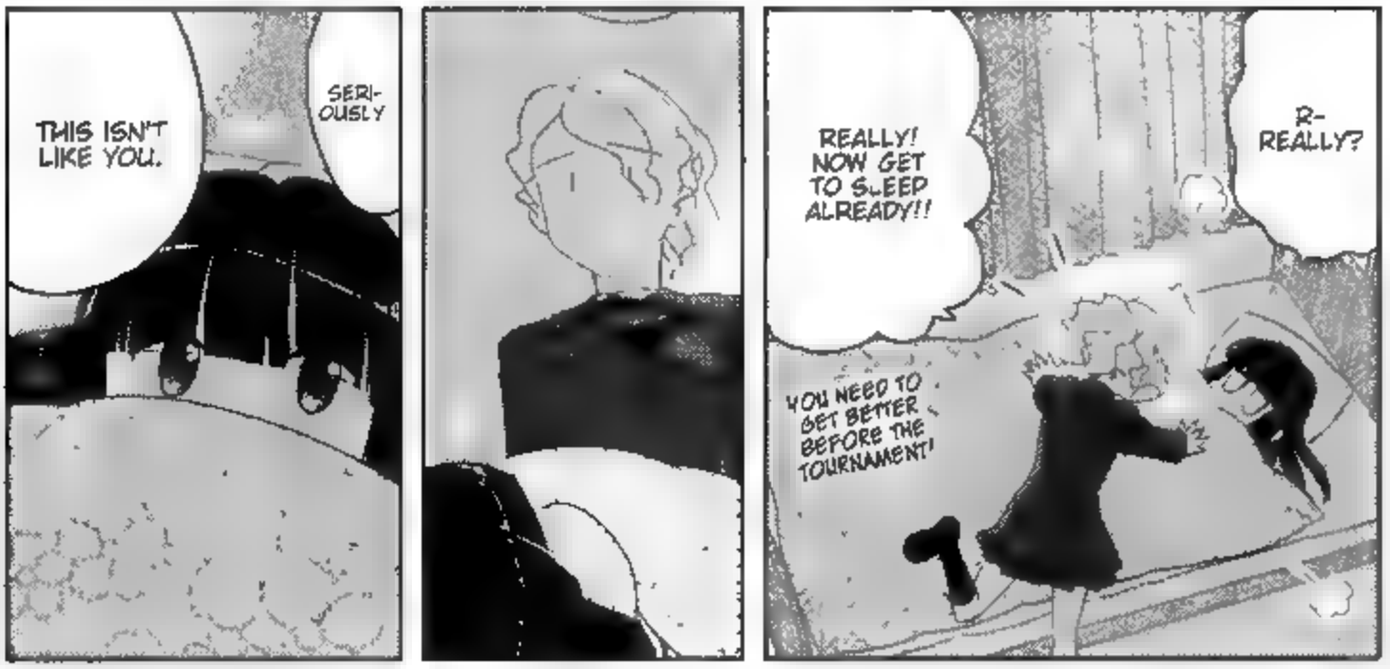
...I DON'T KNOW
YOU WERE CRAZY ABOUT MURASAME-SENPAI.
IS THIS DIFFERENT?
UP UNTIL NOW...
I'M TELLING YOU.
POOF
DO YOU WANT TO BE LIKE HACHI-SENPAI AND MIYAKO-SENPAI?
I DON'T KNOW...
I TOLD YOU-
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW!? IT'S ABOUT YOU!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET IT IF YOU DON'T!?
I DON'T KNOW!!
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? WHAT SHOULD I DO!?
I TOLD YOU-

SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO!!
THIS HAS NEVER HAP-PENED TO ME BEFORE
SIGH
AH
SORRY, KOI.
I LIST
KOI-O-O-O

MAMA GETS LIKE THAT SOMETIMES, WHERE SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
LIKE WHEN SHE'S FOOLING AROUND WITH A MARRIED MAN OR WITH SOME GUY WHO'S WAAAAAY YOUNGER!
OKAY. I GET IT.
SO YOU FELL IN LOVE. FOR REAL.
Sigh
ROCK
ROCK
HUH?
GEEZ. YOU'RE SUCH A HANDFUL. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.
My goodness
K-KOI?
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH A GIRL. I CAN SEE HOW YOU WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
THIS IS YOUR FIRST LOVE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, I GUESS.
MAYU-CHAN...
Stand
Creak
IS IT...
LOVE?


YOU'RE A GIRL TOO,
YOU KNOW!
ZAT HURSH, HOI! ZAT HURSH!
YOU'VE STILL GOT A COLD, SO I'LL LET YOU OFF FOR NOW.
Pant
Gasp

I THINK IT'S NATURAL FOR YOU TO FEEL THAT WAY CONSIDERING HOW LONG YOU'VE LIKED MURASAME-SENPAI, MAYU-CHAN.
I READ IT SOMEWHERE
THERE ARE LOTS OF GIRLS OUR AGE WHO ARE INTO OTHER GIRLS.
I DON'T THINK IT'S ANYTHING TO GET YOURSELF ALL WORKED UP OVER.


THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU.
SERI-OUSLY
R-REALLY?
REALLY! NOW GET TO SLEEP ALREADY!!
YOU NEED TO GET BETTER BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT!

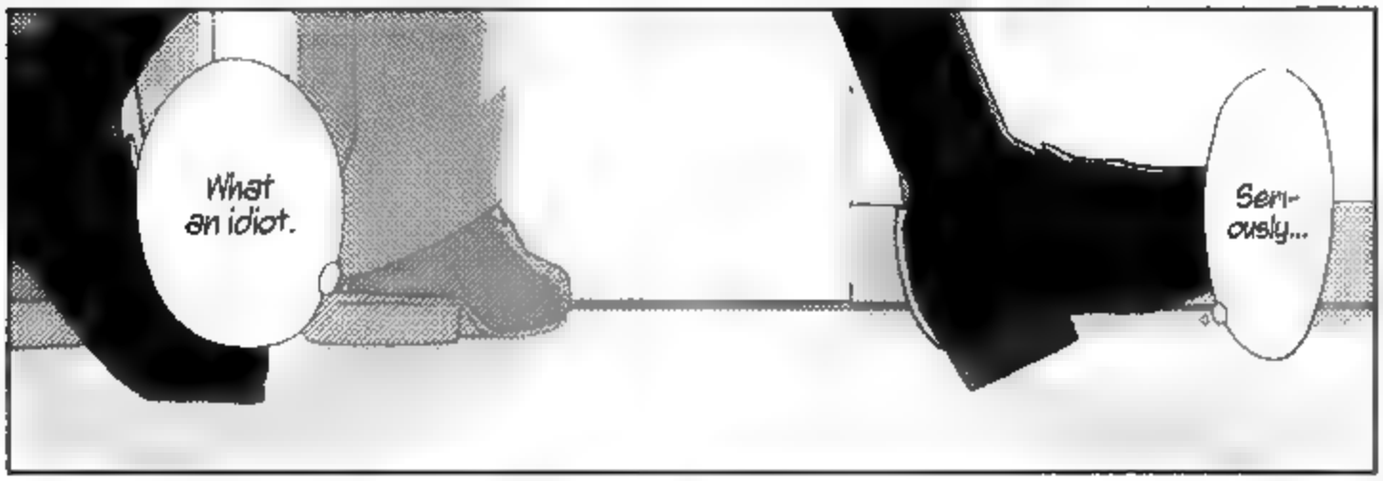
YOU'RE MAYU-CHAN. YOU ALWAYS RUSH IN HEAD-LONG WITHOUT THINKING THINGS THROUGH.
YOU SAY YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE.
FALL IN LOVE.
FALL EVEN DEEPER AND DEEPER IN LOVE WITH MURASAME-SEMPAI.
WE'RE HOME
LONG DAY...
I WONDER IF MAYU GOT TO SLEEP.
OUT LIKE A LIGHT.
GOODNESS.
SHE SAID SHE AT LEAST WANTED TO PRACTICE WITH THE TOURNAMENT SO CLOSE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT GOT THE BETTER OF HER.

I had to spend extra getting around today.
Maybe I'll walk.

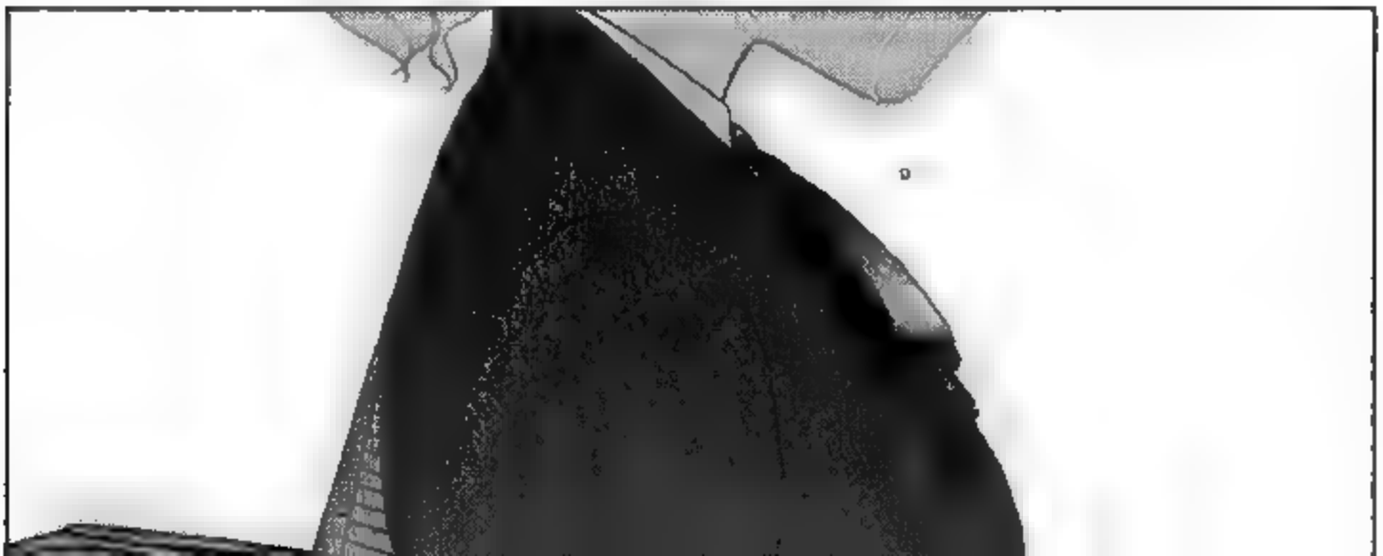
a handful sometimes.
Mayu-chan sure can be

VMMMMM

It's not like it's a big change from how she looked up to Murasame-senpai anyway.
I can't believe she'd get so worked up over her first love.


What an idiot.
Seri-ously...

What... an idiot.



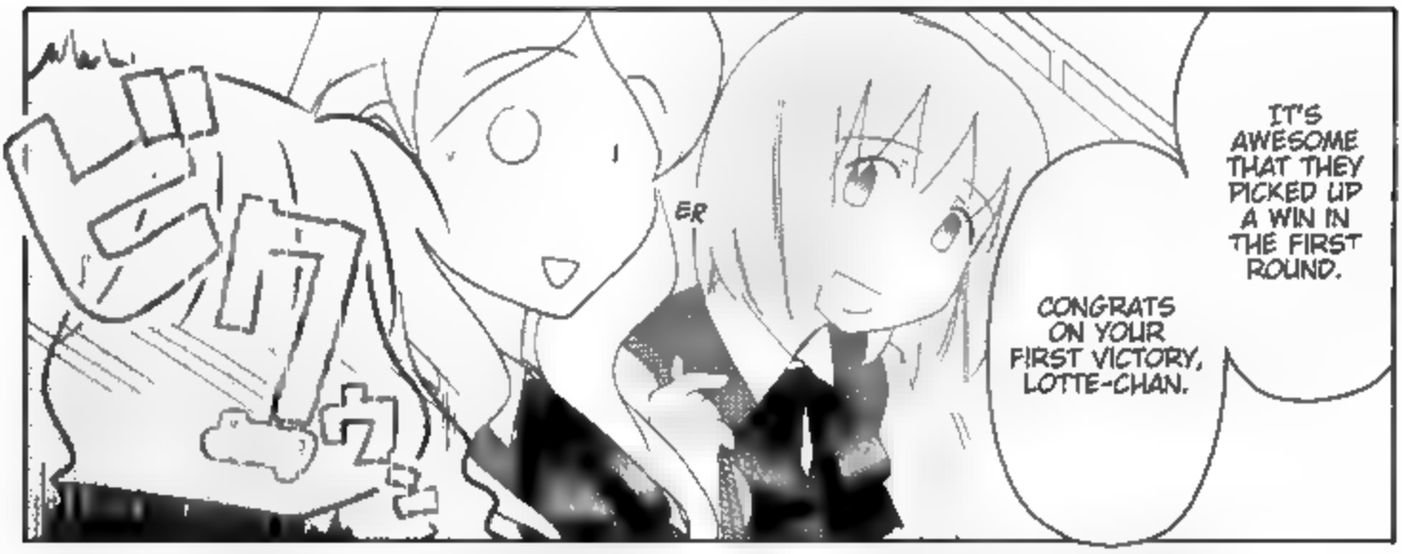
ИЦИ?

National High School Karate
Tournament Prefectural Qualifier

WHY AM I-

KYORI-CHAN! OVER HERE!

BUT AT LEAST YOU MADE IT.
SORRY I'M LATE.
OUR CLUB MEETING RAN LATE, TODAY OF ALL DAYS.

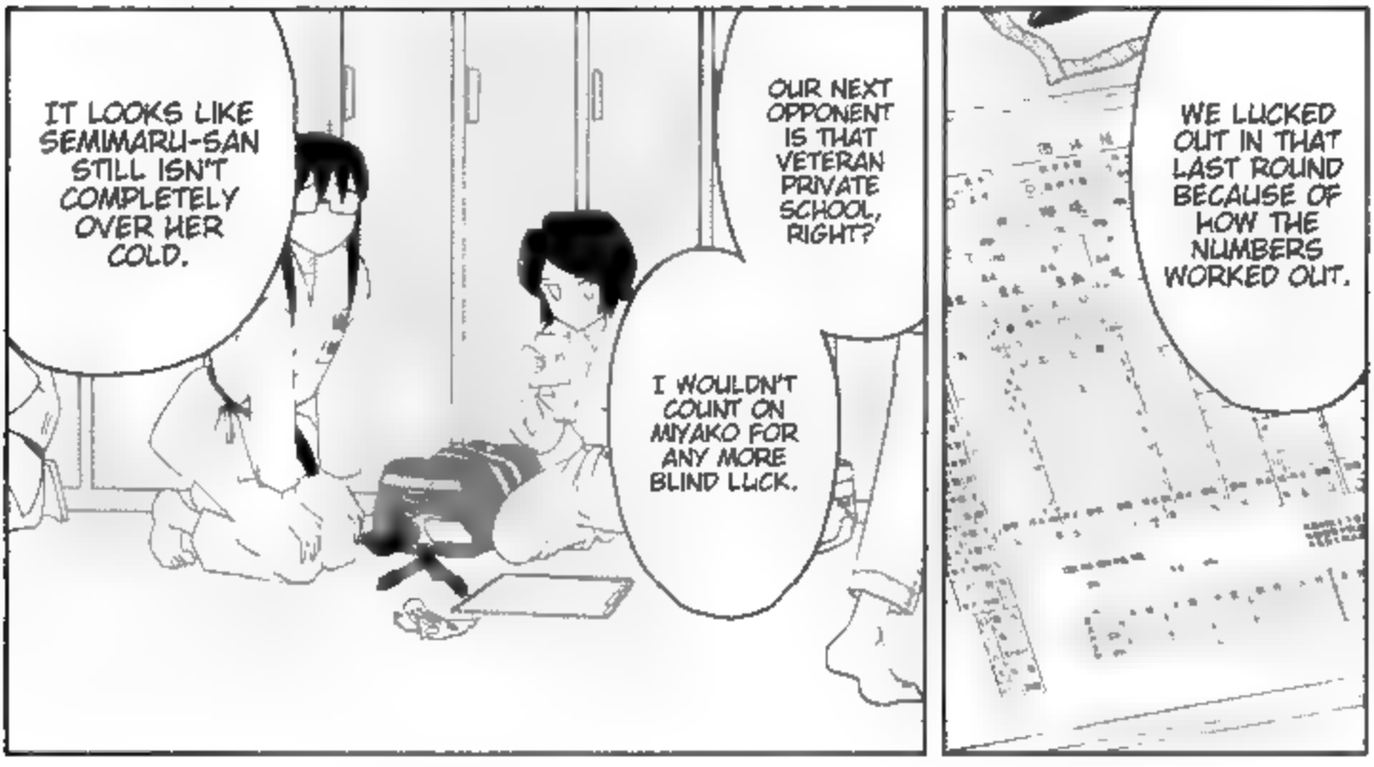

ER
CONGRATS ON YOUR FIRST VICTORY, LOTTE-CHAN.
IT'S AWESOME THAT THEY PICKED UP A WIN IN THE FIRST ROUND.

HUH? THE SEMI-FINALS ARE NEXT?
THERE AREN'T THAT MANY SCHOOLS WITH ENOUGH MEMBERS FOR A TEAM.
CRAZY... THEY SERI-OUSLY MIGHT BE IN THE RUNNING FOR THE CHAMPION-SHIP, THEN.

GERMAN, MAYBE
Vaaha haoa
A Waw awa
OH DEAR, AND SHE HAD JUST CALMED DOWN, TOO...

HUH?
SEMIMARU-SAN LOST IN THE FIRST ROUND?

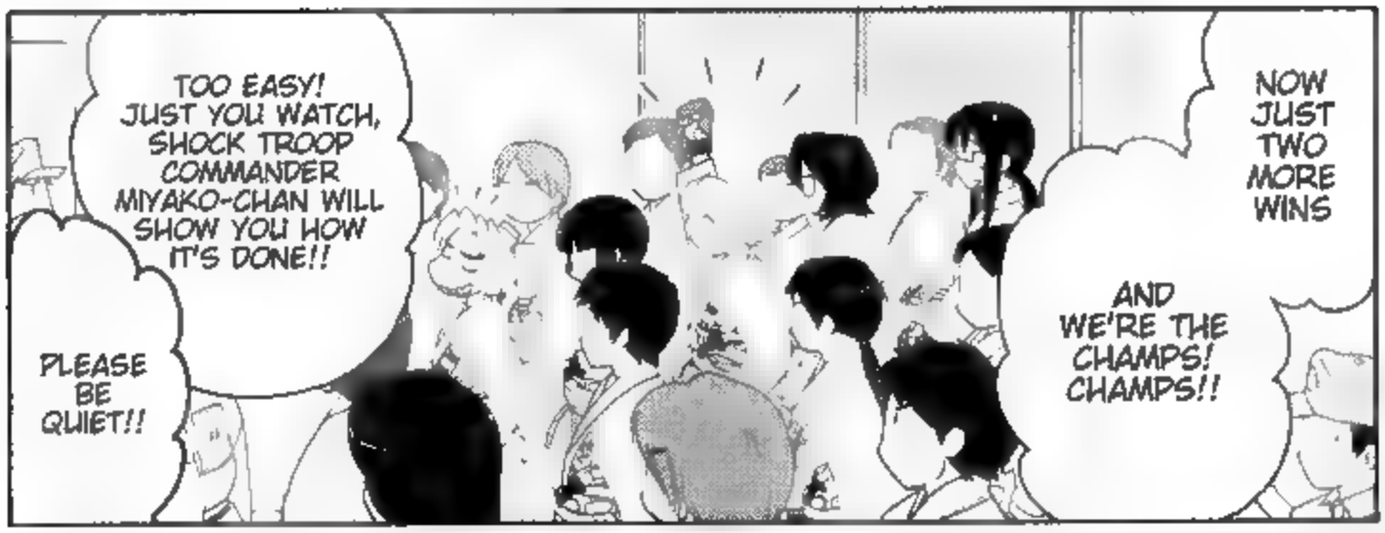
Nametag: Jmegae


IT LOOKS LIKE SEMIMARU-SAN STILL ISN'T COMPLETELY OVER HER COLD.
OUR NEXT OPPONENT IS THAT VETERAN PRIVATE SCHOOL, RIGHT?
I WOULDN'T COUNT ON MIYAKO FOR ANY MORE BLIND LUCK.
WE LUCKED OUT IN THAT LAST ROUND BECAUSE OF HOW THE NUMBERS WORKED OUT.

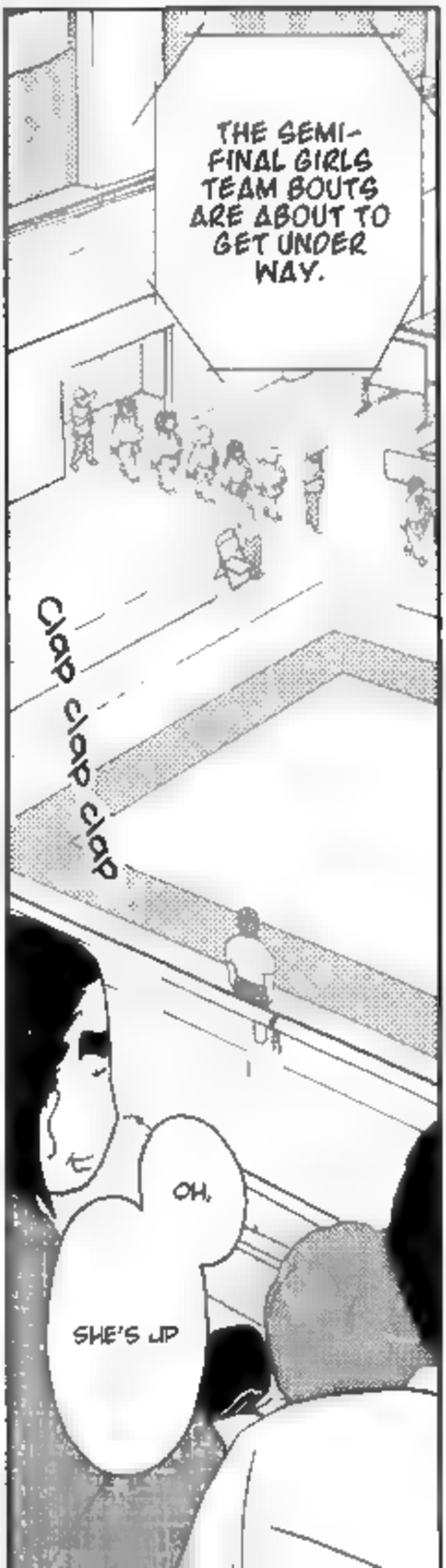
HUH!? NO WAY! AN INCURABLE ILLNESS!?
YOU WON'T FIND A DOCTOR THAT CAN CURE THAT.
Sigh
THIS GIRL'S HOPELESS.
MY GOODNESS.
Massage
Massage
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
CRUNCH
IT'S NOT AS IF YOU AND OUR MANAGER HAVE MADE ANY PROGRESS, RIGHT?
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND,
HAVE REALLY COME A LONG WAY.
LATELY, I'VE MANAGED TO FIND A LITTLE BIT.
CONFIDENCE, I GUESS.
IT'S KIND OF LIKE. .
CRAP
"PROGRESS"? EHE
GEEZ
Dopey Smile

KAZAMA IS FINALLY
SEEING ME FOR WHO I AM.
OKAY
ALL GIRLS TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN THE SEMI-FINALS, PLEASE ASSEMBLE.
'BOUT TIME TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
AL-RIGHTY. GOOD WORK.

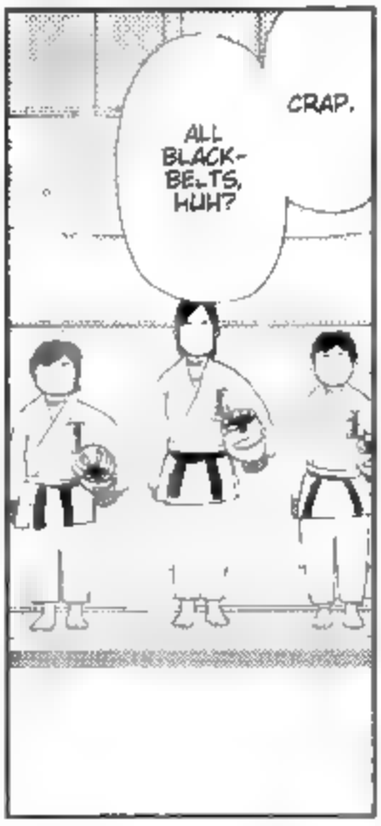
MAYU-CHAN...
I KNOW.
WHEN THE TOURNA-MENT IS OVER
I'LL TELL SENPAI HOW I FEEL.
THAT'S WHY THIS TIME
I HAVE TO WIN.
AND PROVE MYSELF TO HER.
OKAY...
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, MAYU-CHAN!!
ハナコ
SMACK


TOO EASY! JUST YOU WATCH, SHOCK TROOP COMMANDER MIYAKO-CHAN WILL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE!!
PLEASE BE QUIET!!
NOW JUST TWO MORE WINS
AND WE'RE THE CHAMPS! CHAMPS!!

SO LOUD...
ONE - TWO
Omegaie!
Cheer


THE SEMI-FINAL GIRLS TEAM BOUTS ARE ABOUT TO GET UNDER WAY.
Clap clap clap
OH, SHE'S UP

Creak
Oh well.
We've already done what we promised Lotte. All we can do now is enjoy the ride...
Creak
Creak
Creak


CRAP.
ALL BLACK-BELTS, HUH?

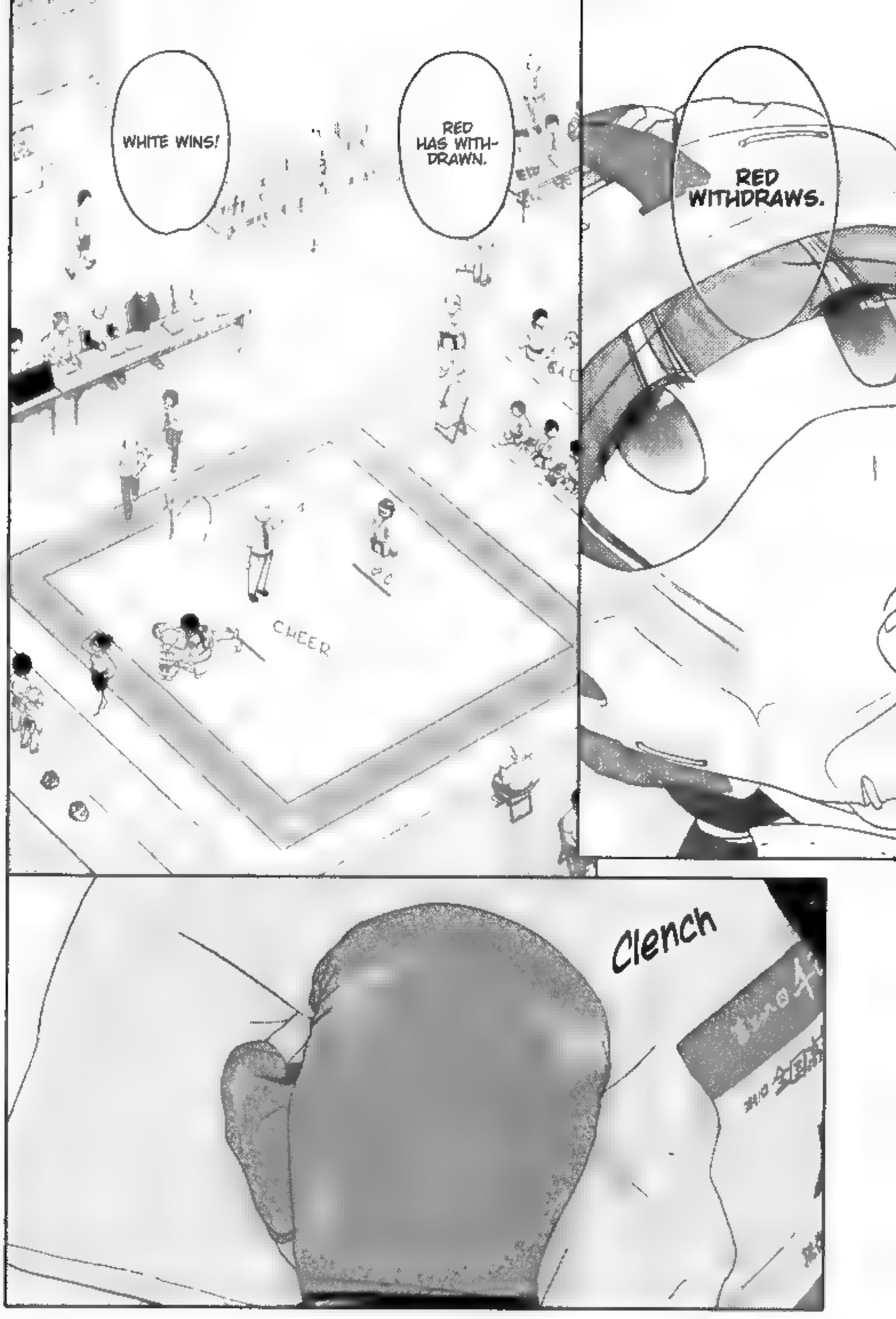
Sizzle
CLANK
CLUNK
梅
梅枝
UH, WELL, JUST TAKE IT EASY.
Y—
YESH!!
FOOSH
S-
SEIMARU-SAN?
YESH!?
AND GOOFY GLASSES. WE'RE THE THREE CORNERSTONES OF VICTORY! WE'RE HEADED FOR THE NATIONALS!
VANGUARD MIYAKO-CHAN. SECOND-IN-COMMAND TOMOE-CHAN.
BUT THERE WERE A BUNCH OF TROPHIES IN HER ROOM...
I guess she's not very good with pressure...
NO WORRIES. WE CAN'T EXPECT TOO MUCH OUT OF OUR FIRST YEARS.
Confidence

Tweet
INSTANT REPEAT ★
STOP
RELAX! YOU NEED TO RELAX!
L-LOOSEN UP!
Clank
Creak
There
T-
NEXT BOUT
RED - SEMIMARU
YEAH
OKAY
Pant
THUMP
Pant
THUMP
Cheer
Cheer
GOOD LUCK, MAYU-CHAN.
THUMP
ADVISOR

IF I don't win here, there's no second chances.
Pant
BEGIN!
Pant
Taema-senpai lost...
I have to win
I have to
Pant
I have to win...
Pant
SEMMARU-BA-
MAYU-CHAN!!

Murmur
WAIT! DON'T MOVE HER!
SHE TOOK THE FULL BRUNT OF THAT.
MAYU-CHAN!!
WELL, THAT IS WHAT THE RULES SAY.
BUT TO MAKE IT EASIER TO JUDGE, CONTACT IS ALLOWED.
That's why they wear the Guards
HUH? WHAT HAP-PENED?
I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO ACTUALLY HIT PEOPLE IN CLUB KARATE.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO? YOU CAN TAKE A WIN ON THE RULE VIOLATION.
THANK GOODNESS. SHE'S CONSCIOUS.
SEMIMARU-SAN, ARE YOU OKAY?
UGH..
WE'RE THE ONES AT FAULT.
SHE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO DEFEND HERSELF.


WHITE WINS!
RED HAS WITH-DRAWN.
CHEER
RED WITHDRAWS.
Clench

Useless Addition 37

やったあああああああ!!
AMAZING. IS SHE REALLY A WHITEBELT?
ANOTHER POINT!
POINT!!
SHE PUT ON QUITE A SHOW.
WELCOME TO THE NIIRASAME-STYLE!
THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT TAKING THE TEST FOR THE NEXT RANK?
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING
NICE WORK, TOMOE-CHAN! ♡
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A USELESS ADDITION?
BUT I DON'T THINK I APPRECIATE THE IMPLICATION HERE.

Sasameki Koto

Act 30

Who does this love belong to?

Takashi

AudioErotica

Seravi

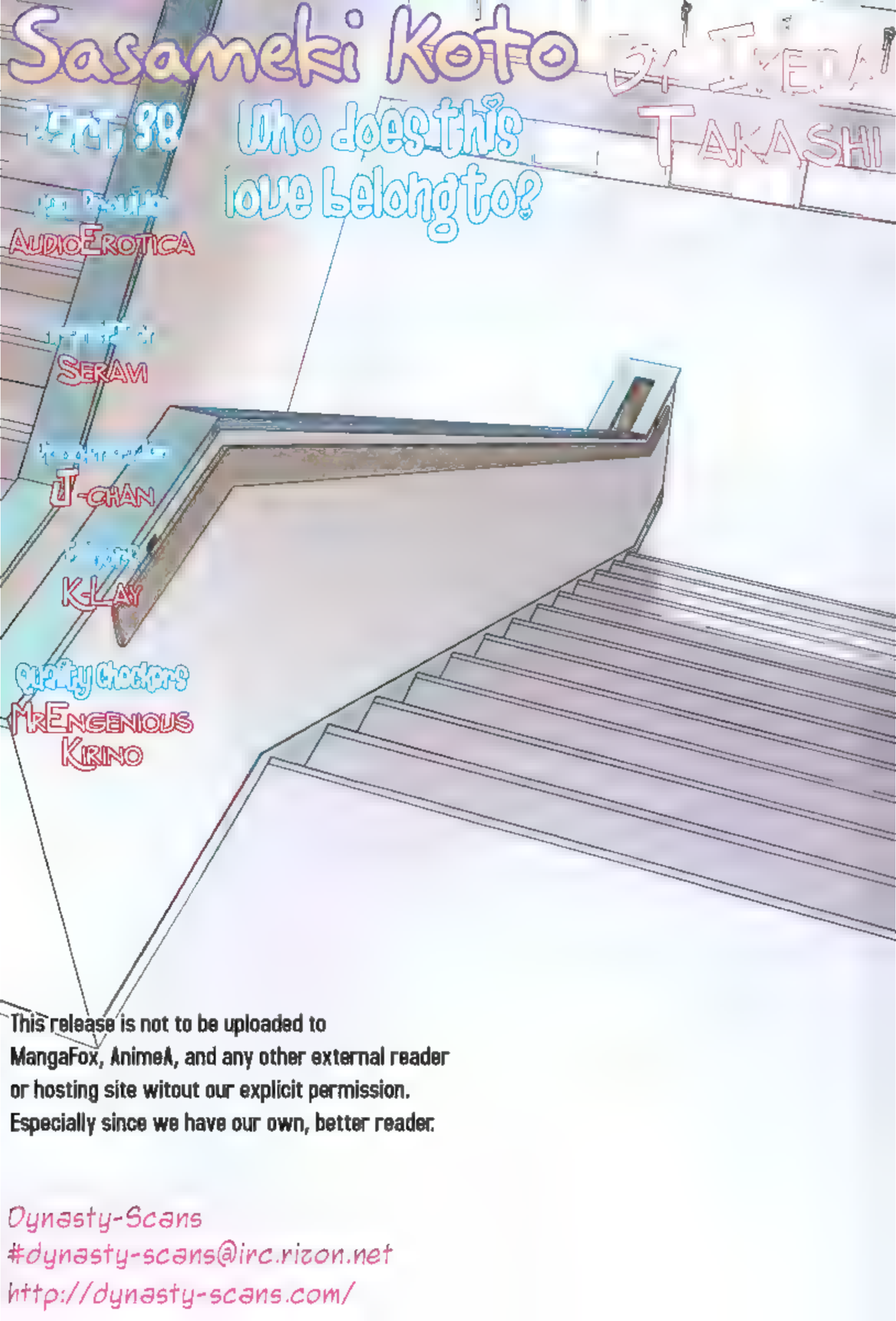
T-chan

K-Lay

Slightly Clockers

MrEngenious

Kirino



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Ei!
SWING
PUT SOME EFFORT INTO IT, KOI.
I GOT THEM TO LET US USE THE PRACTICE DOJO EVEN THOUGH WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR EXAMS.
Yah!
AHAHA, I'M SO WEAK.
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN I COULD ONLY GET SO FAR IN A MONTH.
... SORRY.
I KIND OF ENDED UP DRAGGING YOU ALONG WITH ME...
Sigh
My Goodness
I'M REALLY GOING TO BE IN A KARATE TOURNA-MENT...
I NEVER COULD'VE SEEN THAT ONE COMING WHEN I STARTED HERE.
Seriously.

Part 38 Who does this love belong to?

YOU HIT YOUR HEAD. YOU NEED TO REST.
...OKAY.
Please lay down.
RED HAS WITH-DRAWN.
WHITE WINS!
Yeah!
Okay.
LEAVE THE REST TO YOUR MANAGER.
YOU JUST WORRY ABOUT YOUR MATCH, PREZ.
I'M SORRY ...
I LET THE COU-RAGE YOU GAVE ME GO TO WASTE ...
MAYU-CHAN...
...KOI.
UME

March March

MATSU-BARA-SAN.

HERE, PUT YOUR GUARD ON.

SHOULD WE WITH-DRAW?

.....

I HAVE MY PRIDE TOO, YOU KNOW.

GRAB

WE ALREADY FULFILLED OUR PROMISE TO LOTTE. WE'VE DONE OUR BEST...

SENPAI

Oh no.
COME HERE AND I'LL PASS DOWN THE SECRET TO MIYAKO-CHAN'S WHITE BELT DOOMSDAY PUNCH.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! WELL SAID, FIRST YEAR!
Ffmp
R-RIGHT.
B...
Doomsday Punch
We'll pass on the
I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SEMIMARU-SAN,
Hurry it up
CHEER
CHEER
Point!
BUT STAY FOCUSED ON THE OPPONENT IN FRONT OF YOU.
MATSU-BARA-SAN
BE CONFIDENT AND GO AT THEM WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!
YEAH!!
GOT IT!?

CHEER
THIRD BOUT
RED - MATSUBARA
...I'm sorry, Senpai.
GO for it!
READY!
There's only one thing that I can do.
Right now
BOW
to give Mayu-chan one more chance.
And that is
BEGIN!
Jump
23
One more chance to prove herself to Murasame-senpai!

Give Mayu-chan that chance!
I will

BUT...
YOU NEED TO GET YOUR REST.
OTHERWISE SUMI- I MEAN, THE PRESIDENT WILL YELL AT ME.
Excuse me
DON'T SIT UP SO QUICKLY!
...I THOUGHT I HEARD KOI'S VOICE...
THAT MEANS THERE'S JUST ONE THING THAT YOU NEED TO DO RIGHT NOW.
KOINO-CHAN IS OUT THERE DOING HER BEST FOR BOTH OF YOU.
Cheer
Cheer
Cheer
Cheer
Yah.
EXACTLY RIGHT.
...DON'T GIVE HER MORE REASON TO WORRY?

Stop!
Koji is giving it her all.
Oh...
MATSU-BARA-SAN, KEEP YOUR COMPO-SURE!
KEEP YOUR EYES ON HER, CLOWN!
You sure are fired up, Miyako
I see.
For my sake.

For the sake...
Of my love.
Lunge

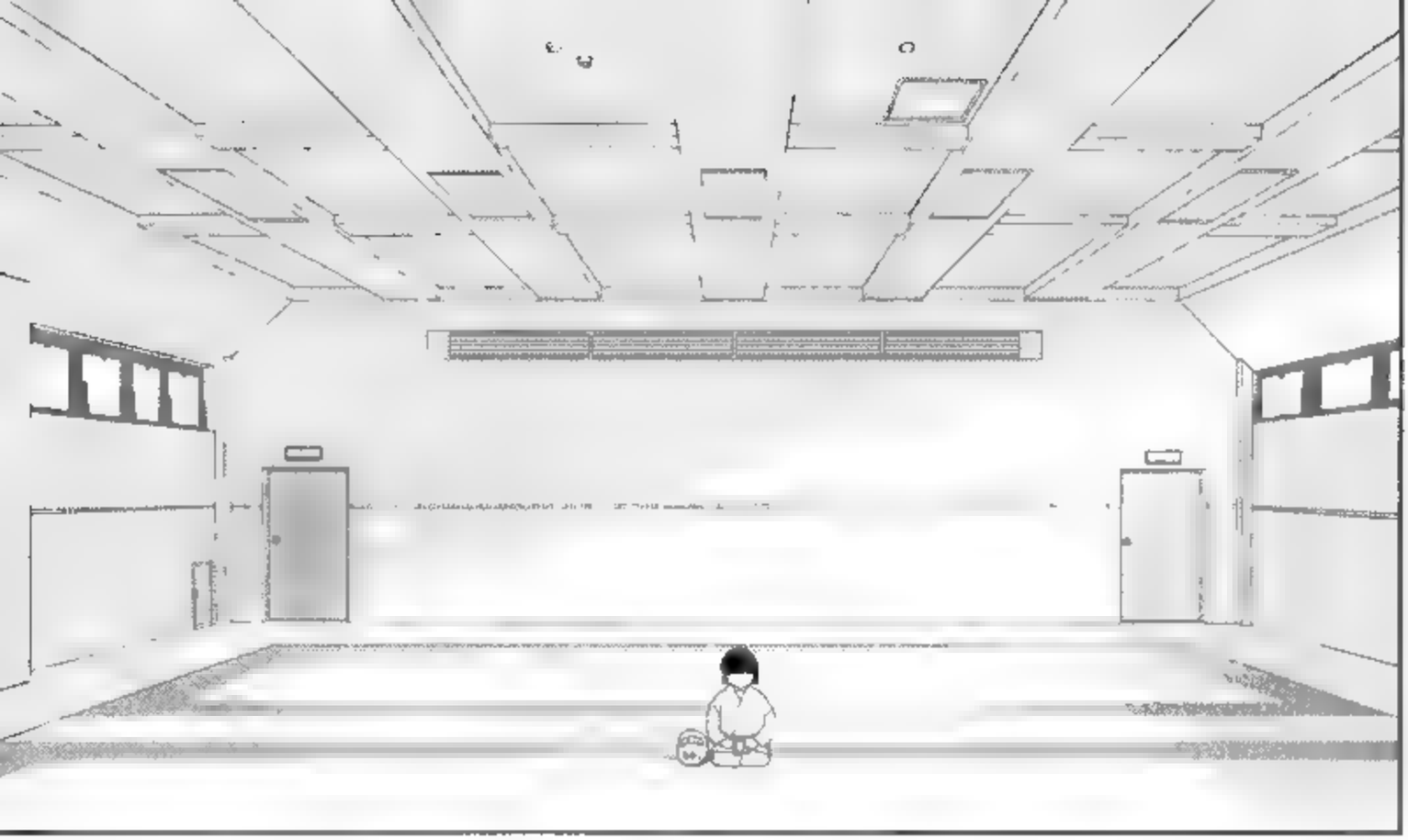
Thank you, Koi.

YAAAAAAAH!

I REALLY WANTED TO GO OUT WITH A WIN.
THEY SHOULD'VE AT LEAST LET US DUKE IT OUT TO THE END
INSTEAD WE GET THIS SISSY "GET BACK IN LINE AND PLAY NICE!" STUFF.
STILL, THIRD PLACE IS REALLY IMPRES-SIVE.
EVEN IF WE COULD HAVE CONTINUED, OUR CLUB WOULD'VE WITH-DRAWN.
I THINK THIS WAS FOR THE BEST.
RIGHT, PRESI-DENT?

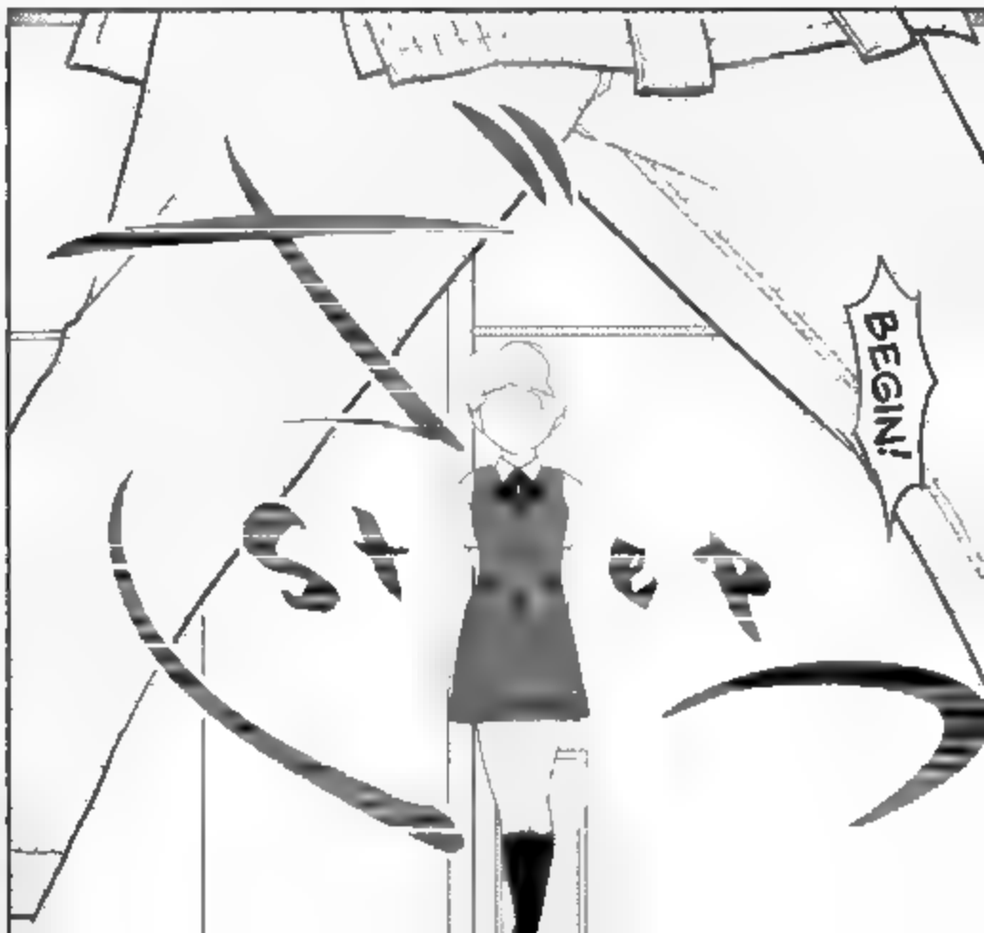
I'M SORRY.
WE MADE YOU PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD BEFORE YOU WERE COMPLETELY OVER YOUR COLD.
N-
NO, IT WASN'T MY COLD-
I'VE DONE A LITTLE REFLEC-TING
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A CLUB ACTIVITY, SO I WASN'T BEING CAREFUL ENOUGH.
WE'RE PUTTING OUR LIVES ON THE LINE. ONE WRONG STEP AND IT COULD ALL BE OVER.
THE ONLY REASON WE CAN ALL WALK HOME TOGETHER LIKE THIS IS BECAUSE WE WERE LUCKY.

Ya — y!♪
H- HOW ABOUT WE GO FOR SOME TEA?
W- WELL THEN...
HOW'S SOMEONE WHO SPENT THE LAST FEW WEEKS LOOKING LIKE THE WALKING DEAD GONNA LECTURE US?
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
W-
WAIT!
...I HAVE
A REQUEST!

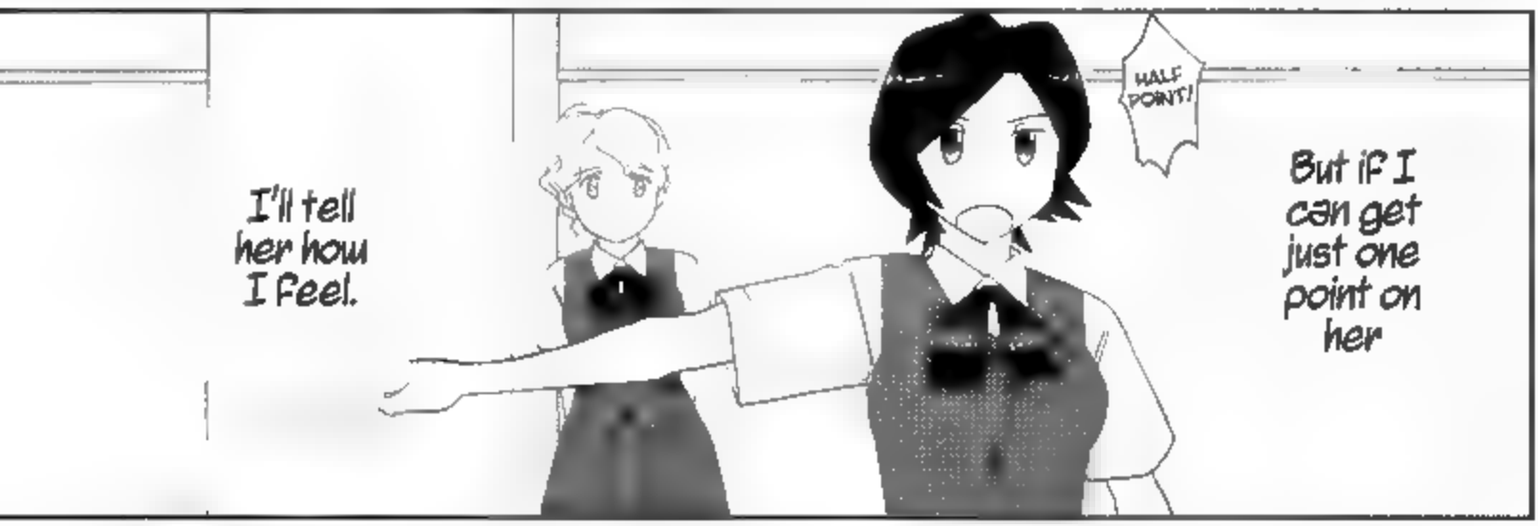


HEY, SORRY FOR THE HOLDUP.

PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR BEST!

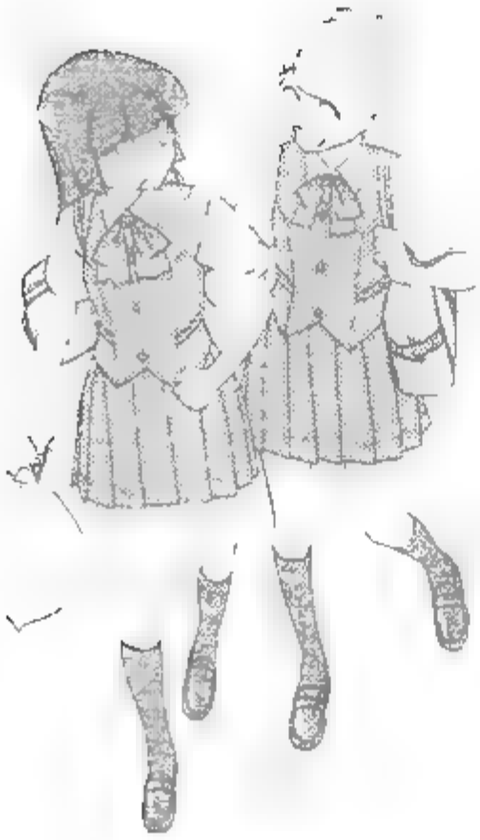

BEGIN!

Swing
YAH!
I really don't think I stand a chance.


HALF POINT!
I'll tell her how I feel.
But if I can get just one point on her

HALF POINT!
The last thing I want
is to cause trouble for you, Koi!
There's no point in sitting around worrying about it.
And more than anything,

POINT!
Smack
...It's fine, you know.
No matter how much trouble you cause for me.



That's what makes you you, Mayu-chan.

Get a single point on her.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I couldn't...

MURA-SAME-SENPAI ...

SENPAI,

I LIKE YOU!

I MUST BE GOING-
THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO DO THIS.
Wha?
Wha?
Wha?
Wha?
Wha?
Wha?
Wha?
Clink
Clank
Clink
Clank

She must've really enjoyed our match, huh?
JEEZ, TALK ABOUT EMBARRASSING.
I ALWAYS KNEW SHE LOOKED UP TO ME, BUT MAN...
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR BRAIN?

MAYU-CHAN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT? MURASAME-SENPAI DEFINITELY DIDN'T GET WHAT YOU WERE SAYING JUST NOW!
AND YOU SAID YOU'D CONFESS IF YOU SCORED A POINT ON HER...
IT'S FINE.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID IT, KOI.
BUT...
AND I WENT AT HER WITH EVERYTHING I HAD.
SHE FACED ME AS A SERIOUS OPPONENT.

THAT'S MY STYLE, RIGHT?
I ALWAYS RUSH IN HEADLONG WITHOUT THINKING THINGS THROUGH.

...KOI?

Useless Addition #38

ささめきこと ❶

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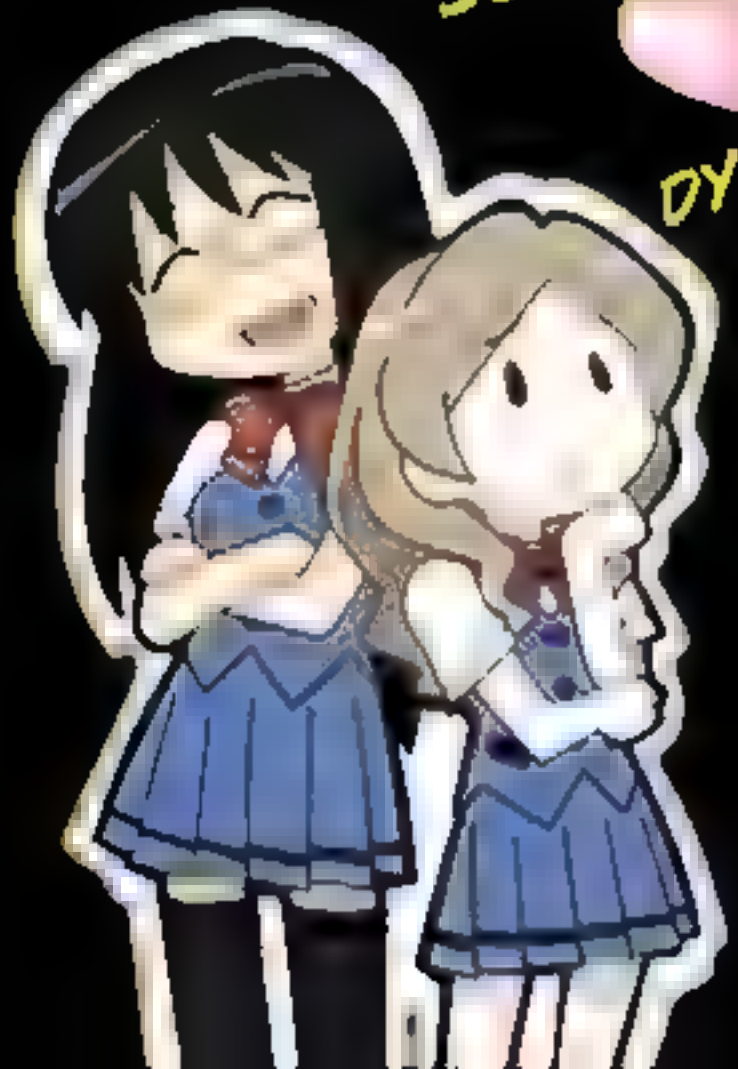
RAWS: AUDIO EROTICA

TRANSLATION: DAGGER

PROOFREADING: J-CHAN

EDITING: LELE

QUALITY CHECKING:
CASUSBY & AUDIO EROTICA



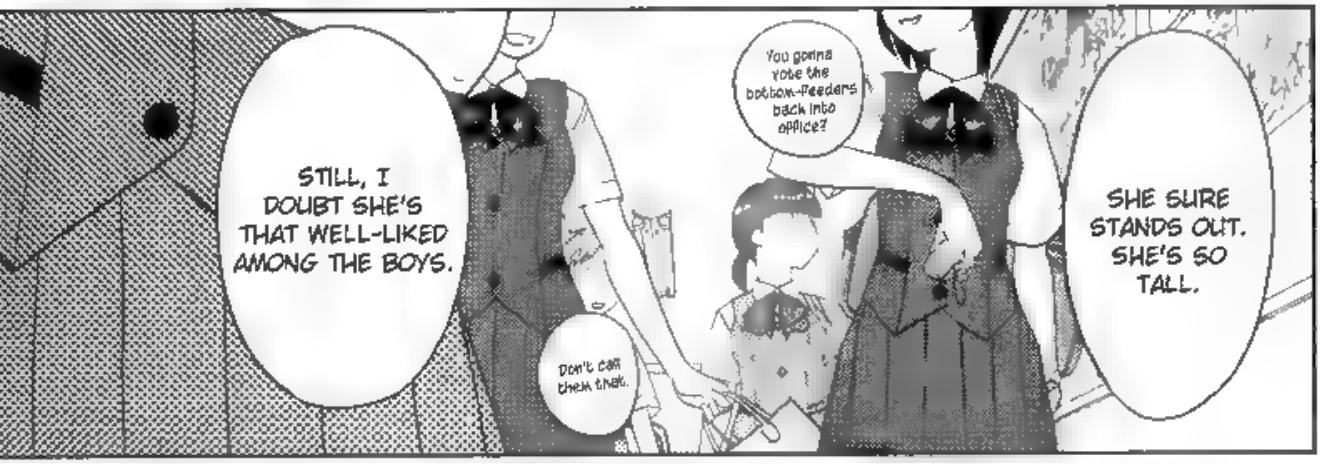
EMERGING

AWAKENING

KINDLING

Part 33 Rondo in the Sea

THIS MURASAME CHICK IS PRETTY FAMOUS.
SHE BLEW THE COMPETITION AWAY AT THE SPORTS FESTIVAL LAST YEAR.
In every sense of the word, good and bad.
ARE THEY GONNA GIVE SPEECHES?
LOOKS LIKE IT'S DECIDED.


STILL, I DOUBT SHE'S THAT WELL-LIKED AMONG THE BOYS.
You gonna vote the bottom-feeders back into office?
Don't call them that.
SHE SURE STANDS OUT. SHE'S SO TALL.

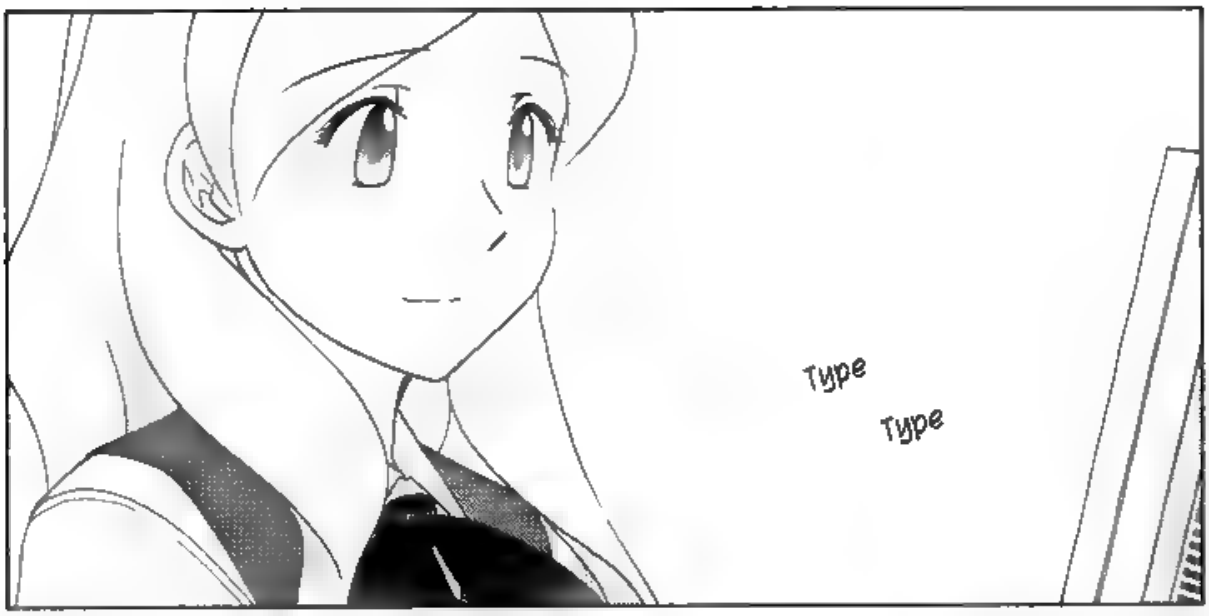
HE'S QUITE A PUSHOVER.
Murasame would whoop his ass if it came down to an actual fight.
OH HEY, YASHIMA'S ONE OF THE CANDIDATES.
REMIND ME, IS HE ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM?
REALLY? I DUNNO, ISN'T THAT SORT OF THING KIND OF POPULAR RIGHT NOW?
The whole tsundere shtick, I mean
What're you talking about?

WHO'RE YOU GOING FOR?
UHH, YASHIMA, I GUESS.
DON'T REALLY WANT A GIRL TO BE THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

BESIDES, I DON'T LIKE THE BASKETBALL TEAM. THEY'RE TOTALLY FULL OF THEMSELVES.
Just cause they're sort of good
WELL, YEAH, TRUE.
Teacher
C'MON, SIT DOWN.

YOU IDIOT! NO FRIGGIN' WAY. ALL THE GIRLS LOVE YASHIMA ALREADY. CAN'T LET HIM BE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT, ON TOP OF THAT.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MURASAME? SHE'S PRACTICALLY A GUY ANYWAY.
YO!
THAT'S HARSH, MAN.

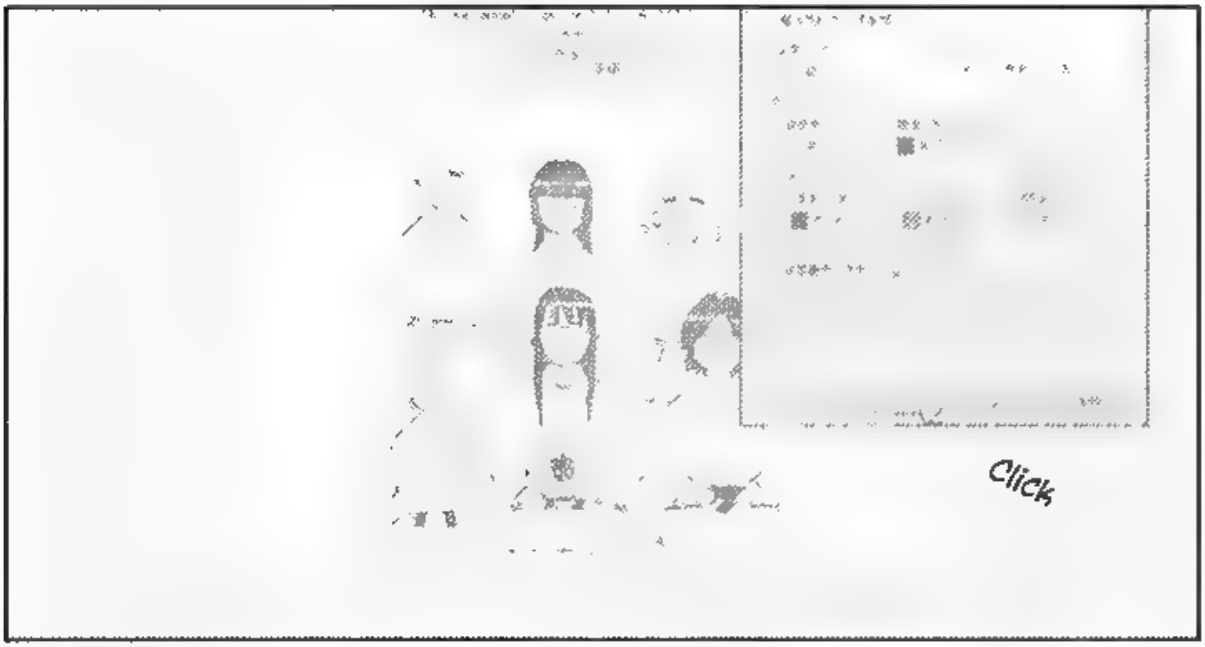
I HEAR WE HAVE A WRITING QUIZ TODAY.
NO WAY! I THOUGHT IT'D BE NEXT TIME.
WHOA, SERIOUSLY? DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S SUPPOSED TO COVER?
MAJOR UPROAR
Teach
Pipe down!!


Type
Type

I DON'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SORT OF THING, SO I DON'T KNOW IF I DID A GOOD JOB OR NOT...
NO WORRIES. IT'S JUST THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE.
I'LL HAVE THE TEACHER CHECK IT LATER.
Sit down

I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY?
Squeak
HUH? YOU'RE FINISHED?

BUT I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE I COULD ASK MURASAME-SAN ABOUT IT, SINCE SHE SEEMS SO BUSY WITH EVERYTHING.
I GOT ASSIGNED TO WRITE SOME KIND OF ARTICLE ABOUT THE KARATE CLUB, BECAUSE THEY PLACED THIRD.
YOU WERE A BIG HELP, KAZAMA-SAN.
Click
Click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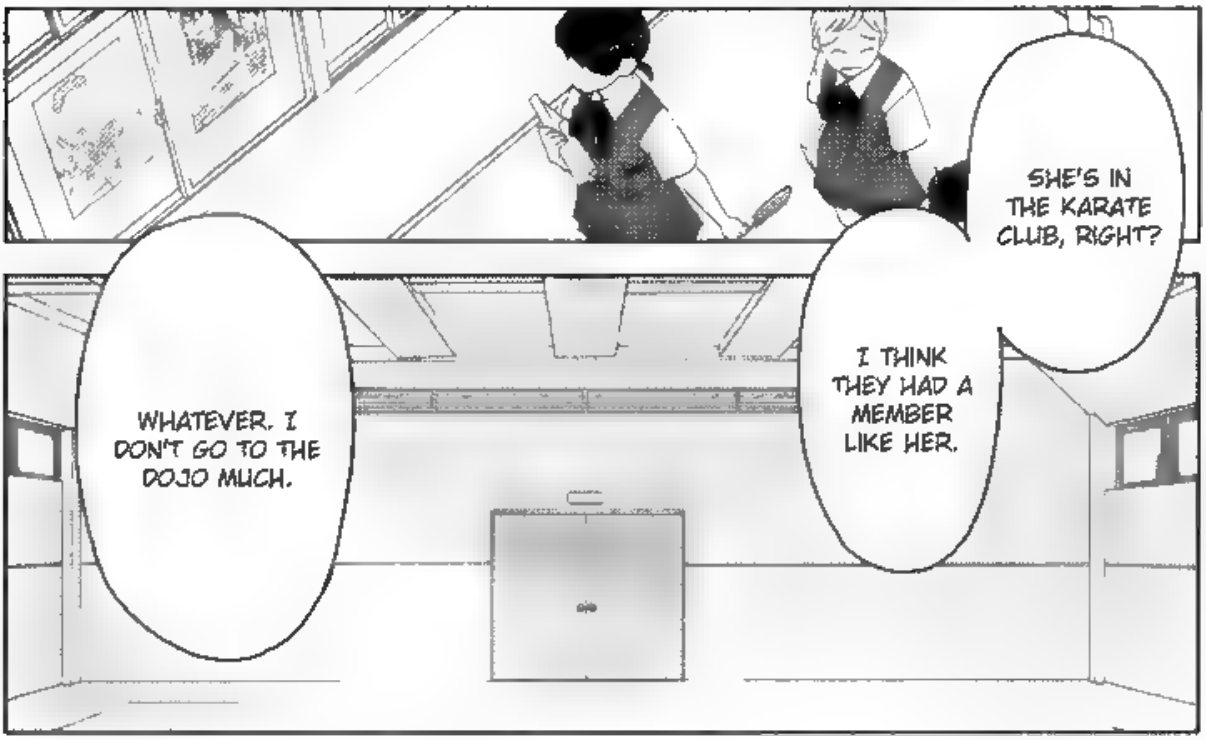
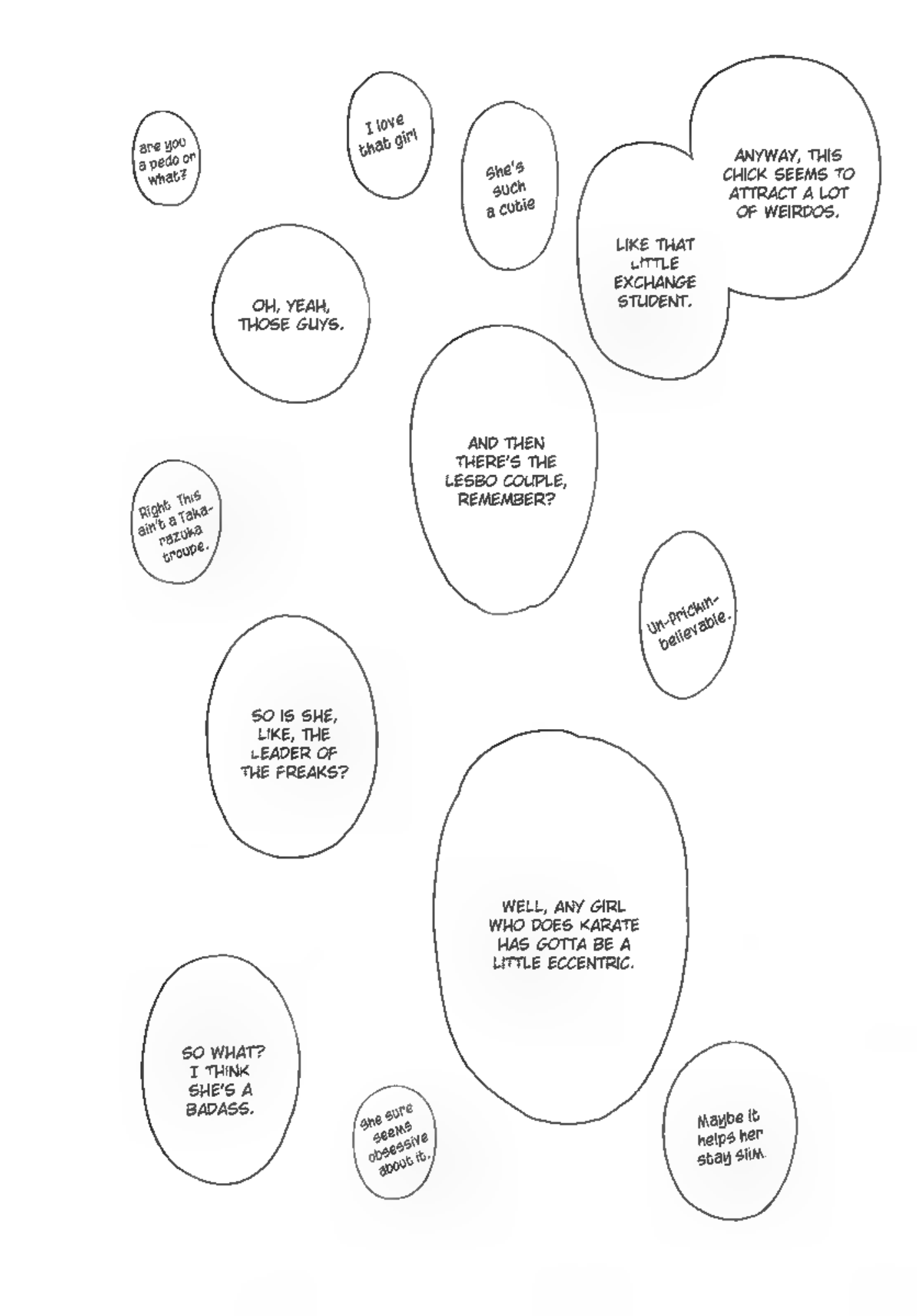
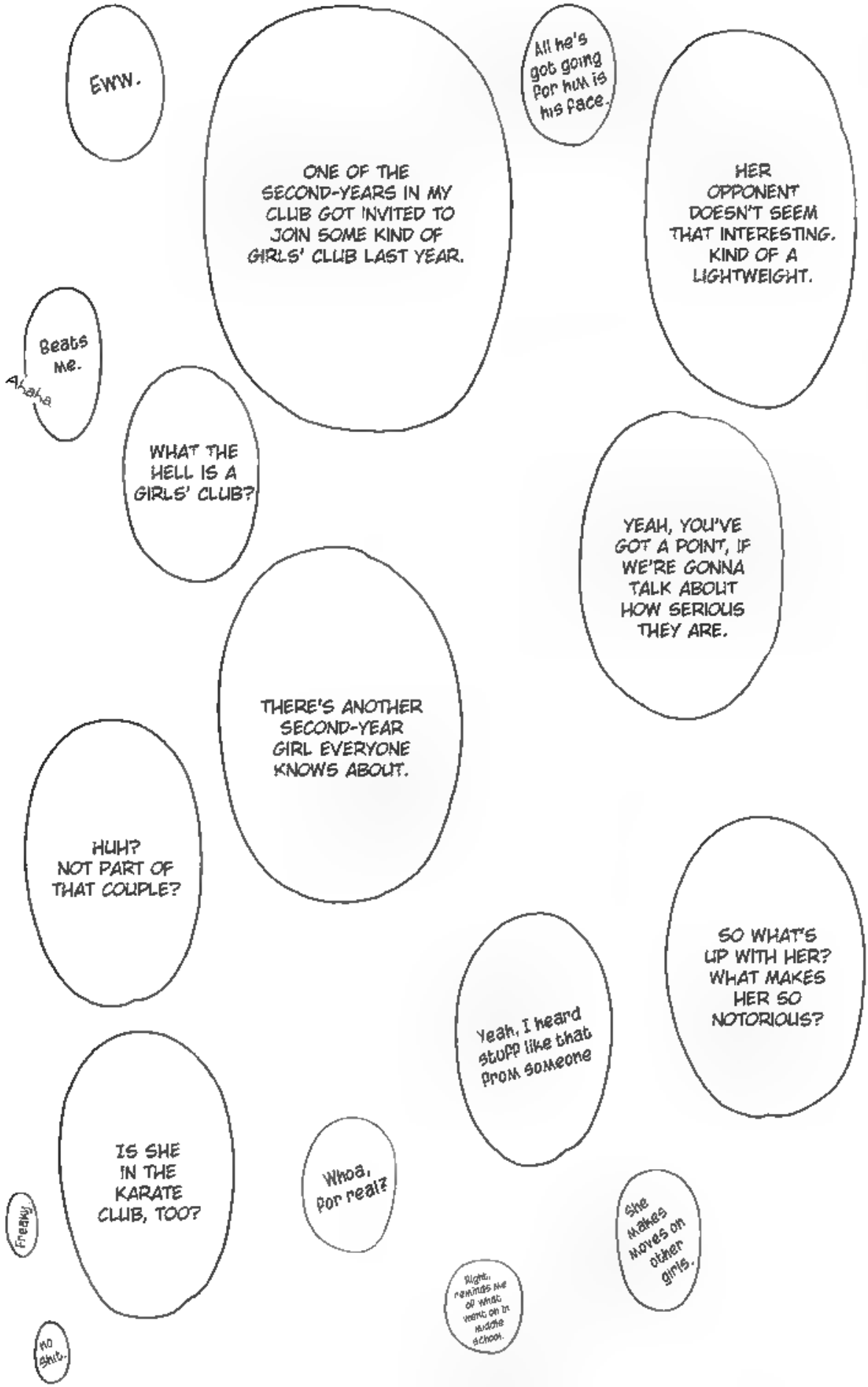

SHE'S IN THE KARATE CLUB, RIGHT?
I THINK THEY HAD A MEMBER LIKE HER.
WHATEVER. I DON'T GO TO THE DOJO MUCH.

GIRL'S BATHROOM
YEAH. THERE WEREN'T TOO MANY SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING TO BEGIN WITH. MATSUBARA SAID THEY JUST WON ONCE, THAT'S ALL.
NO? THIRD PLACE?
DIDN'T THEY WIN AT THE PREFECTURAL TOURNAMENT?
Hey, does anyone have an extra hair tie?
Nope, sorry
SHE'S GOOD FRIENDS WITH SEMIMARU, REMEMBER?
HUH, I DIDN'T REALIZE MATSUBARA WAS IN THE KARATE CLUB.
MAYBE. I COULDN'T CARE LESS EITHER WAY.
SHE'S TOTALLY PUTTING ON AN ACT, DON'T YOU THINK? NO WAY THAT'S HER NORMAL SELF.
I MEAN, THE WAY SHE TALKS AND STUFF.
WHAT ABOUT HER?
SPEAKING OF SEMIMARU, WHY IS SHE SUCH A FREAK?


are you a pedo or what?
I love that girl
She's such a cutie
ANYWAY, THIS CHICK SEEMS TO ATTRACT A LOT OF WEIRDOS.
LIKE THAT LITTLE EXCHANGE STUDENT.
OH, YEAH, THOSE GUYS.
AND THEN THERE'S THE LESBO COUPLE, REMEMBER?
Right. This ain't a Takarazuka troupe.
Un-fricken-believable.
SO IS SHE, LIKE, THE LEADER OF THE FREAKS?
WELL, ANY GIRL WHO DOES KARATE HAS GOTTA BE A LITTLE ECCENTRIC.
SO WHAT? I THINK SHE'S A BADASS.
She sure seems obsessive about it.
Maybe it helps her stay slim.


Ewww.
ONE OF THE SECOND-YEARS IN MY CLUB GOT INVITED TO JOIN SOME KIND OF GIRLS' CLUB LAST YEAR.
All he's got going for him is his face.
HER OPPONENT DOESN'T SEEM THAT INTERESTING. KIND OF A LIGHTWEIGHT.
Beats me.
Ahaha
WHAT THE HELL IS A GIRLS' CLUB?
YEAH, YOU'VE GOT A POINT, IF WE'RE GONNA TALK ABOUT HOW SERIOUS THEY ARE.
THERE'S ANOTHER SECOND-YEAR GIRL EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT.
HUH? NOT PART OF THAT COUPLE?
SO WHAT'S UP WITH HER? WHAT MAKES HER SO NOTORIOUS?
Yeah, I heard stuff like that from someone
IS SHE IN THE KARATE CLUB, TOO?
Whoa, for real?
Freaky.
She makes moves on other girls.
Right, reminds me of what went on in middle school.
No shit.

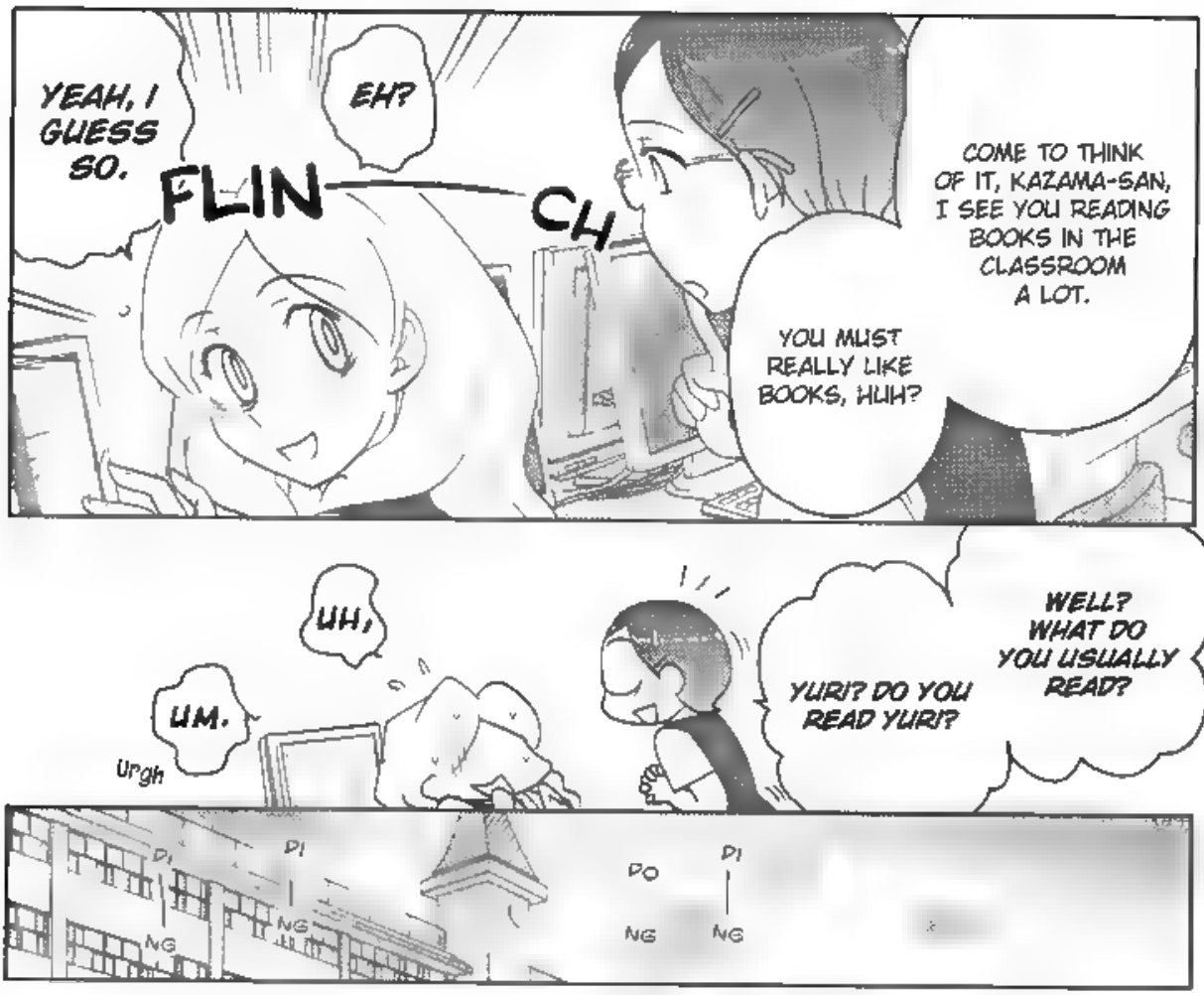
WAIT, AOI-SAN.
OH,

GO AHEAD.
CAN I DO A LITTLE REVISION?
IT DIDN'T BOTHER ME, THOUGH.

WELL, IT'S JUST THAT
I FEEL LIKE MY WRITING STYLE IS KIND OF STIFF.
WHAT IS IT?

I SEE.
I'M IMPRESSED, KAZAMA-SAN. IT'S LIKE YOU'RE A REAL EDITOR.
Type
SO MAYBE THE TEXT ITSELF SHOULD BE FRIENDLY-SOUNDING, TOO.
THE ACTUAL PAGE IS PRETTY CASUAL-LOOKING, DON'T YOU THINK? I MEAN, WHAT WITH THE COLOR SCHEME AND THE LAYOUT.
Type
Type

WELL, Y'KNOW,
I LOVE FASHION MAGS. I'M ALWAYS READING THEM!
OH, RIGHT, SO YOU ARE
I gotta keep her from figuring out about my brother
Whew that was close
Type Type
JOL——T
HUH?
...I was just thinking that
Kazama-san's writing style seems somewhat familiar...
MUST BE MY IMAGINATION.
NAH, IT'S NOTHING.
SORRY, FORGET ABOUT IT.
WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER?
Tense
Ba-dum
Ba-dum
Ba-dum


YEAH, I GUESS SO.
EH?
FLIN
CH
COME TO THINK OF IT, KAZAMA-SAN, I SEE YOU READING BOOKS IN THE CLASSROOM A LOT.
YOU MUST REALLY LIKE BOOKS, HUH?
UH,
UM.
Urgh
YURI? DO YOU READ YURI?
WELL? WHAT DO YOU USUALLY READ?
PI
PI
NG
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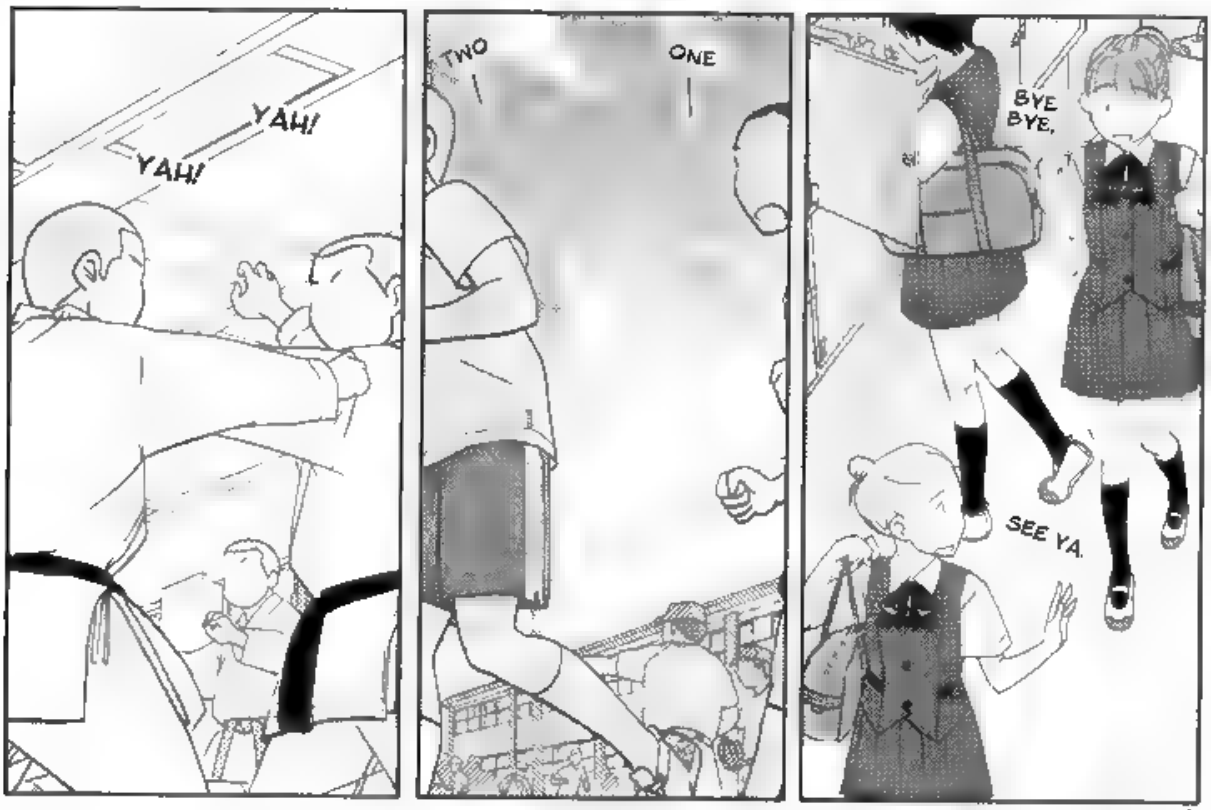
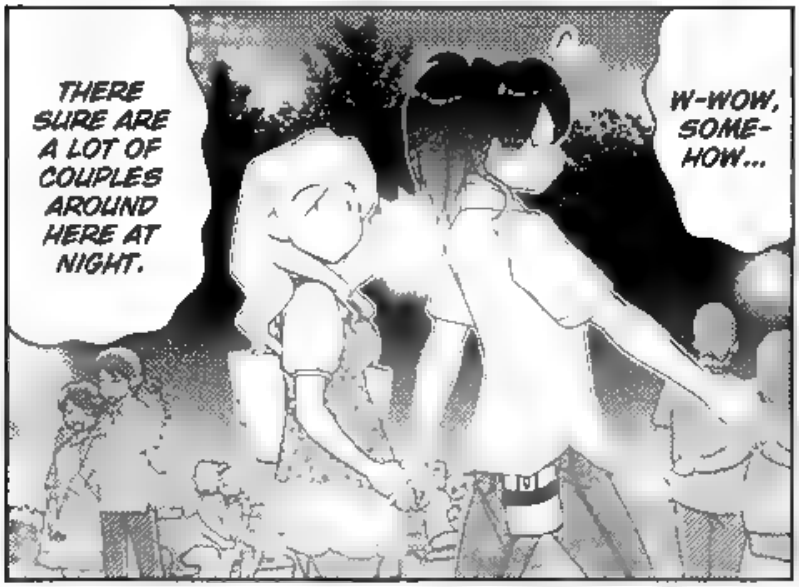
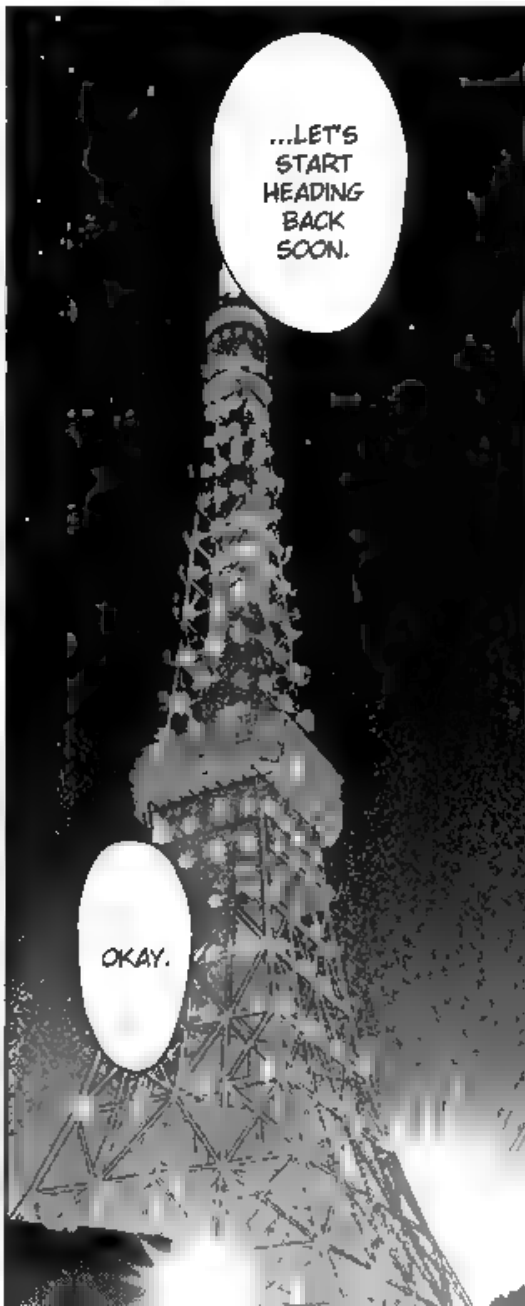
NG
NG

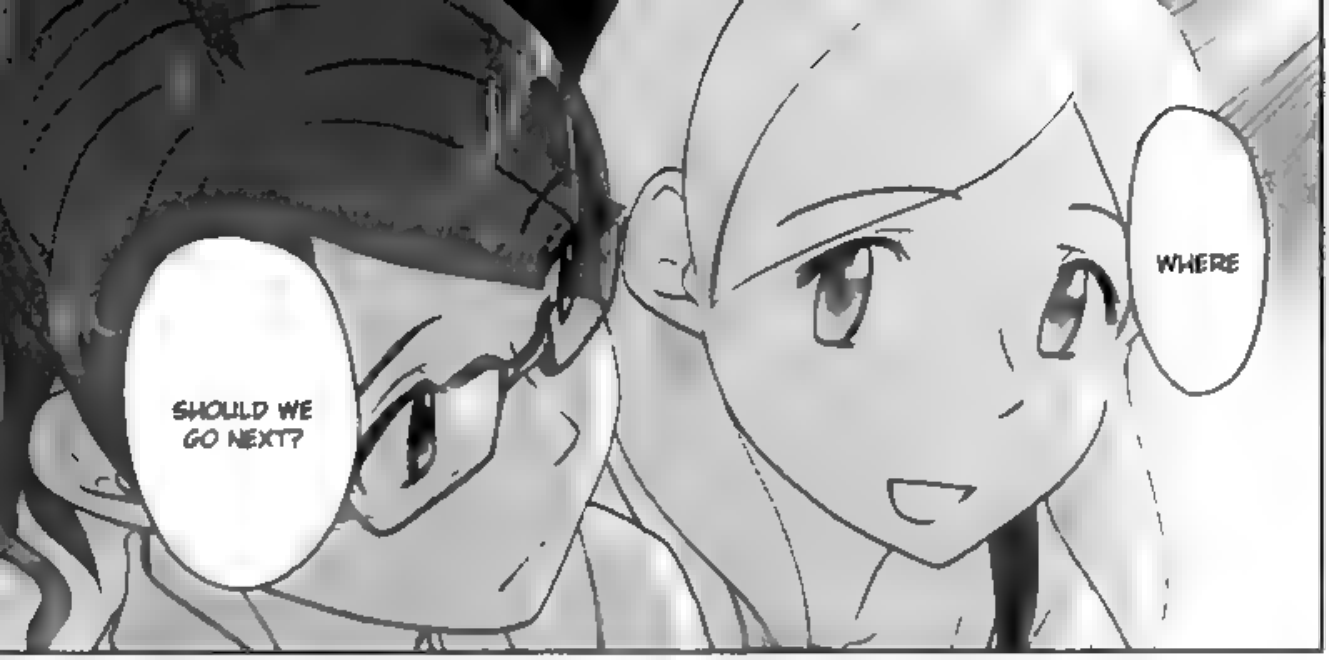

YAH!
YAH!
TWO
ONE
BYE BYE.
SEE YA.

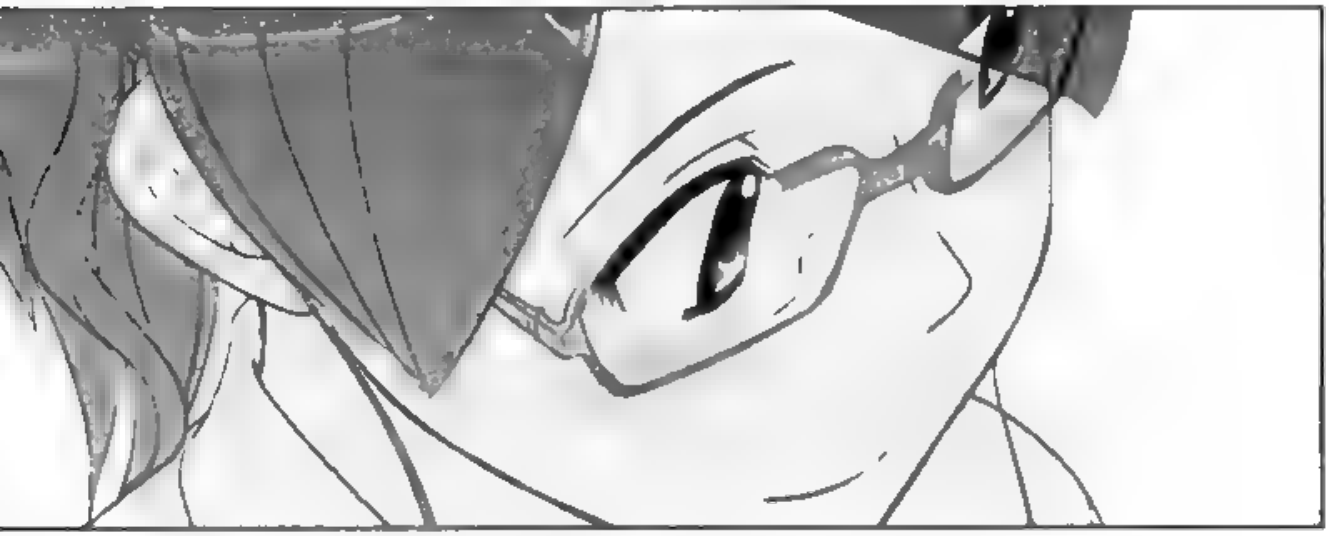
SHE WENT SOMEWHERE WITH USHIO-SAN.
REMEMBER HOW EXCITED SHE LOOKED THIS MORNING?
WHERE'S SUMIKA?
HM?
OH, YOU'RE SO SILLY, SIR.
TWO GIRLS CAN DO AS THEY PLEASE.
Wahahahaha
Hohohohoho
SHE'D BE SUMIKA'S FUTURE BRIDE IF SUMIKA WERE A GUY!
THEY'RE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS.
Shall we have dinner then?
Roger that!
I have finished taking my bath.


THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF COUPLES AROUND HERE AT NIGHT.
W-WOW, SOME-HOW...


...LET'S START HEADING BACK SOON.
OKAY.

"What did you mean when you did that back then?"
Okay, Sumika, time to ask her about it.


WHERE
SHOULD WE GO NEXT?



I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING!

GOOD MORNING, MY FELLOW UMEGAE HIGH STUDENTS!
WE APOLOGIZE FOR DISTURBING THE PEACE SO EARLY IN THE MORNING!
Here you go.
Please take one!
SUMIKA
SUMIKA
Please take a flyer!
heheh
HEY THERE. YOU'RE REALLY GETTING INTO IT.
PLEASE TAKE ONE!
AH, SURE. THANKS.
THANKS.
WE'LL HELP OUT ONCE WE GET RID OF OUR BAGS.

Takaha
AH, TH-THANKS.
YIKES!
Oh,
HELLO. HERE YOU GO.
...WELL, I GUESS THIS SORT OF THING IS TYPICAL OF SUMI-CHAN...
Sounds like even the current president asked her to run
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
MS. SEKIDERA ALWAYS FORCES RANDOM STUDENTS TO RUN FOR POSITIONS ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL.
IN ANY CASE, I FEEL RATHER SORRY FOR POOR MURASAME-SAN.
GRR
HOMEROOM TEACHER

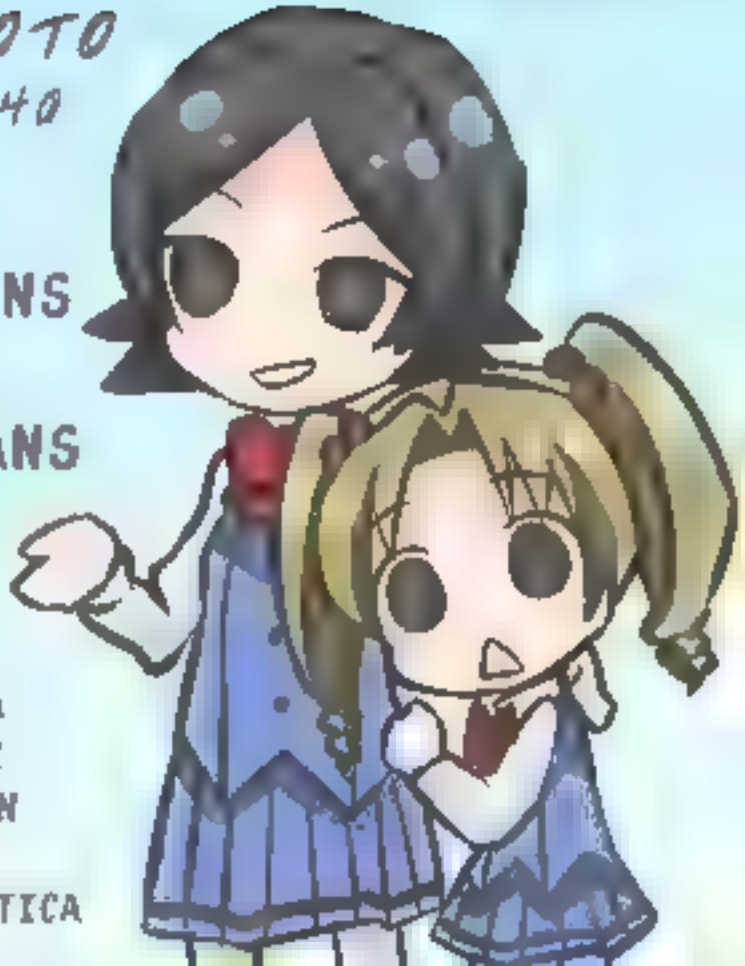
ばつぐんの実行力!
村雨純一
がおー
WHEN YOU GET DOWN TO IT, SHE'S GOOD AT LOOKING AFTER OTHERS.
Type Type
WHETHER SHE LIKES IT OR NOT, THIS KIND OF ROLE SUITS HER WELL.
SHE WAS ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL.
がおー
BY THE WAY, KAZAMA-SAN,
WHY AREN'T YOU PLANNING TO MAKE A SPEECH IN SUPPORT OF HER?

...SHOWING MY SUPPORT THAT WAY
WOULD ONLY END UP DRAGGING HER DOWN.
PLEASE TAKE ONE.

RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
SNAP SHUT
BEEEP
I AM CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE. TO LEAVE A MESSAGE
BEEP
...TOO BUSY TO PICK UP, I SUPPOSE
I gotta go now..
Well,
I could swear I've read text like this before..
---HMMM

Useless Addition #39

SASAMEKI KOTO CHAPTER 40



DYNASTY SCANS
&
PAYAPAYA SCANS

RAWS: AUDIO EROTICA
TRANSLATION:DAGGER
PROOFREADING J-CHAN
EDITORS: EVERYONE
QC CASUSBY & AUDIO EROTICA

Part 40 Open & Close

I SEE YOU'VE FINISHED GOING THROUGH THE FINAL PROOFS.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
...ESPECIALLY KRT... AND THEN THERE'S KRT... KRT...
ESPECIALLY COMPARED TO THE OTHER AUTHORS I'M IN CHARGE OF...
No one else...?
tremble tremble
AHAHA. YOU USUALLY DELIVER THINGS ON TIME, ORINO, SO I DON'T MIND.
SORRY I MISSED THE DEADLINE.
THE LEAST I CAN DO IS MEET MY DEADLINES.
W- WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE MY BOOKS GET A BIG PRINT RUN.
I THINK YOUR NEW RELEASE WILL BE A HIT, TOO. THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF LOVES IT.
DON'T SELL YOUR-SELF SHORT.
YOUR LAST NOVEL ENTERED ITS SECOND PRINTING QUITE QUICKLY.

HAVE YOU HAD SOME KIND OF EPIPHANY?
TH-THANKS.
IT'S LIKE YOUR CHARACTERS HAVE GOTTEN A LOT DEEPER.
AH, NOT TO IMPLY THAT THEY WERE SHALLOW BEFORE.
Hohoho
HMMM.
WE'RE STILL LACKING A SOLID SUPPORT BASE...
...I HOPE SO.
NO. THE SPORTS LEAGUE* DOESN'T HAVE THAT MANY FEMALE MEMBERS TO BEGIN WITH.
BESIDES, THE CURRENT PRESIDENT IS BACKING HER, SO MOST OF THE THIRD YEARS WILL COME TO OUR SIDE. WON'T THAT BE ENOUGH?
WE'VE DEFINITELY GOT A MAJORITY OF THE CULTURAL CLUBS AND GIRLS' SPORTS TEAMS.

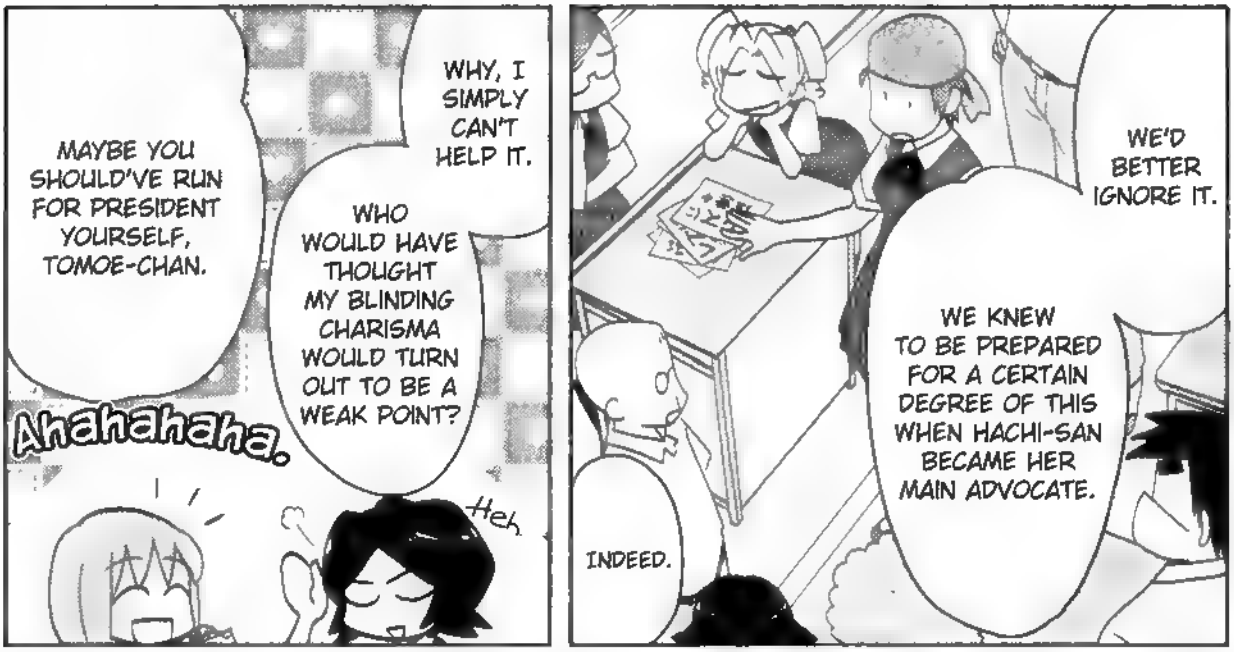
**TL note: Sports League = The League of Sports Teams.

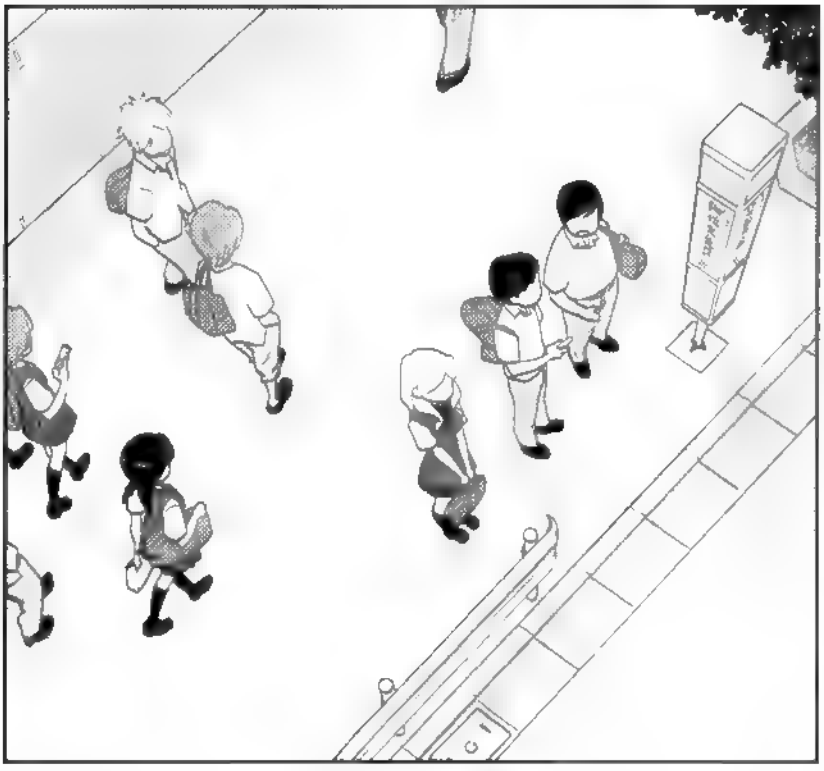
BAAA
AM
THAT'S OBVIOUSLY GONNA HELP BOOST OUR CLUB BUDGET! NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!!
ONE OF OUR OWN MIGHT BECOME THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT! IN OTHER WORDS—!!
Tsk Tsk Tsk Tsk Tsk Tsk Tsk
I DON'T MIND NOT BEING PRESIDENT...
LOOK, IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
THAT'S JUST WHAT YOU TELL THE GENERAL PUBLIC. EVERYTHING'S TIT FOR TAT.
HEHEH, SO YOU SAY. Y'KNOW HOW IT GOES.
Right?
I- I'D NEVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
FAVORITISM IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!
DON'T BE GRABBIN' IT ALL FOR YOURSELVES, LADIES. WE WANT SOME, TOO!
YEAH, AND IT'S JUST AS BAD FOR THE SMALLER CULTURAL CLUBS!
EVEN WE SOCCER TEAM FOLKS GET TREATED LIKE NOBODIES.
It totally sucks.
SERIOUSLY, MOST GIRLS' CLUBS HAVE TO GET BY ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET.

GIVE IT A REST!
HACHI-SAN...
HOW DEPLORABLE. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ALREADY LOBBYING HER LIKE THIS.
WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT WHAT WILL BENEFIT THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY!
THAT'S THE FUNDAMENTAL GOAL DRIVING OUR SUPPORT FOR MURASAME! DID YOU ALREADY FORGET THAT!?
Sowwy.
BESIDES, YOU WERE DISCUSSING THE BUDGET WITHOUT BRINGING UP MY DEAREST WISH, THE CREATION OF A PURE GIRLS' CLUB!
HOW DARE YOU!?
Right back atcha.
AT ANY RATE, WE NEED TO PRIORITIZE THE WHOLE STUDENT BODY OVER THE GIRLS' CLUBS ALONE.
RAT TLE OPEN
HEY, THIS IS TERRIBLE!!
It's only natural
I see.

BEWARE OF LESBOS!
AH.
THIS SORT OF STUFF DOESN'T BOTHER ME ANYMORE.
TURN
YASHIMA'S SUPPORTERS ARE PLAYING DIRTY.
THEY'RE SLIPPING THESE IN PEOPLE'S LOCKERS AND LEAVING THEM AROUND WHERE TEACHERS WON'T NOTICE, LIKE IN THE CLUB ROOM BUILDING.
HACHI...
HMPH.
THEY'RE BADLY MISTAKEN IF THEY THINK IT'LL SERVE AS EFFECTIVE FODDER AGAINST US.

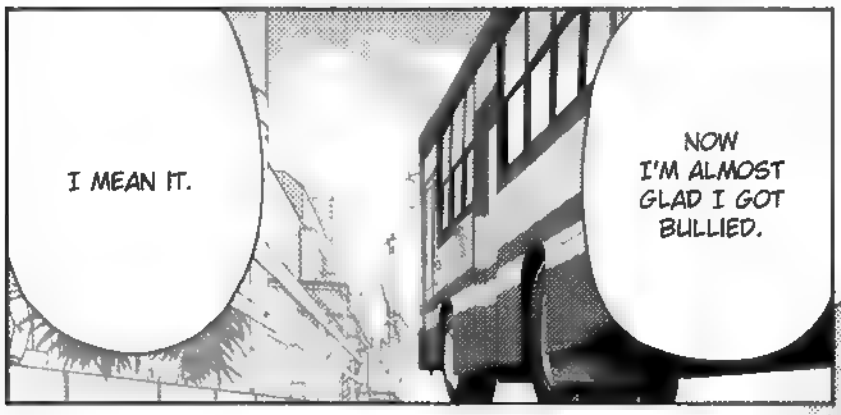
THINK ABOUT IT. SAME-SEX OR OPPOSITE-SEX,
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE NYMPHOMANIACS. I DON'T GO CHASING AFTER ANYONE WEARING A SKIRT.
Wanna join the Girls' Club?
Refer to episode 4 of the anime or volume 1 of the manga.
Please go out with me!
UHHHH, WELL,
I GET THE SENSE THAT WE'VE ALREADY CROSSED THE LINE IN THAT REGARD.
BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT,
THIS SLANDER ISN'T AIMED AT MURASAME HERSELF.
GOOD POINT. SHE'S ALWAYS HANGING OUT WITH HACHI-SAN AND COMPANY, SO I KIND OF FORGOT.
Eh? Ah.
YEAH, MURASAME-SAN ISN'T INTO THAT KINDA THING.
Er, uh, um.
SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THIS?
CAN WE OBJECT IF IT DOESN'T TARGET THE CANDIDATE HERSELF?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVE NO PROOF.
DO WE HAVE TO JUST SIT BACK AND TAKE IT?


MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE RUN FOR PRESIDENT YOURSELF, TOMOE-CHAN.
WHY, I SIMPLY CAN'T HELP IT.
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT MY BLINDING CHARISMA WOULD TURN OUT TO BE A WEAK POINT?
Ahahahaha.
Heh.
WE'D BETTER IGNORE IT.
WE KNEW TO BE PREPARED FOR A CERTAIN DEGREE OF THIS WHEN HACHI-SAN BECAME HER MAIN ADVOCATE.
INDEED.

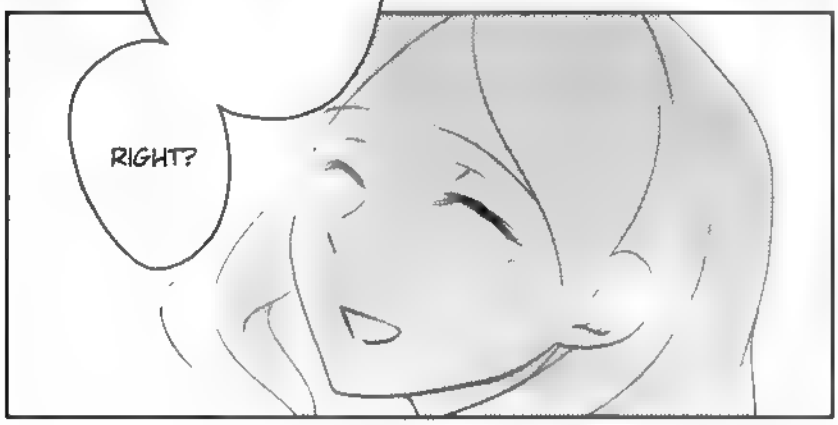


KAZAMA!
SUMI-CHAN...
DON'T YOU HAVE PRAC-TICE?
I LEFT LOTTE IN CHARGE.
ACTUALLY, HACHI TOLD ME TO GO...
You left her alone!? Are you an idiot!?
Got a colored belt
...UM, I'M SORRY.
IT'S MY FAULT FOR RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT.
THAT FLYER...
HEHEHEH. NO WORRIES.
I TOLD YOU I'LL BE FINE.
Vrrm
BUT...
IN THE PAST...
PEOPLE BULLIED ME LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME.

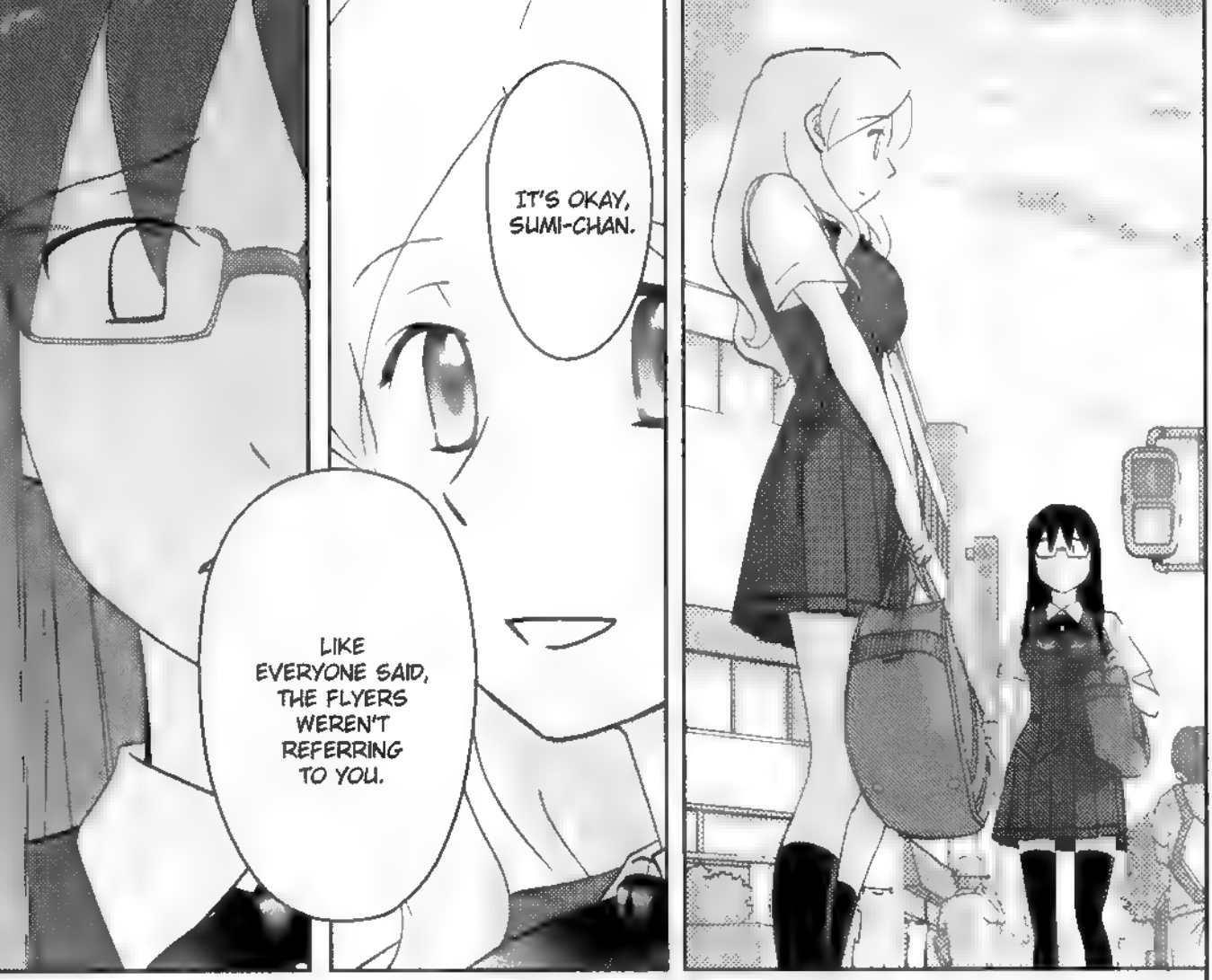
YOU MEAN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
YES, BEFORE I TRANS-FERRED.
IN FACT, THAT'S THE REASON I TRANSFERRED IN THE FIRST PLACE.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN FATE.


I MEAN IT.
NOW I'M ALMOST GLAD I GOT BULLIED.

THERE ARE CRUEL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.
BUT NOW I KNOW THAT NOT EVERYONE IS CRUEL.


RIGHT?

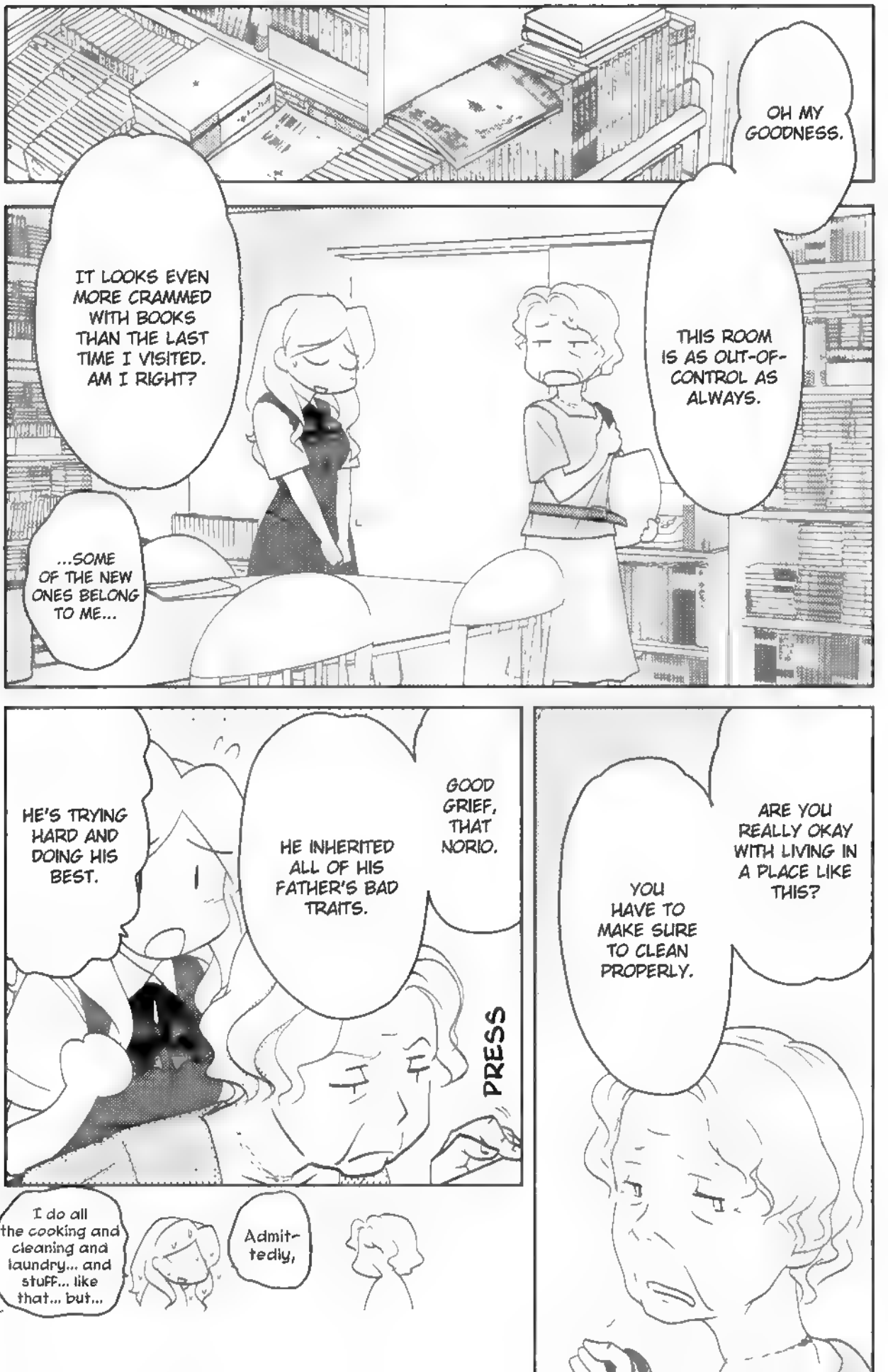
AS A RESULT,
I GOT TO MEET YOU, SUMI-CHAN.

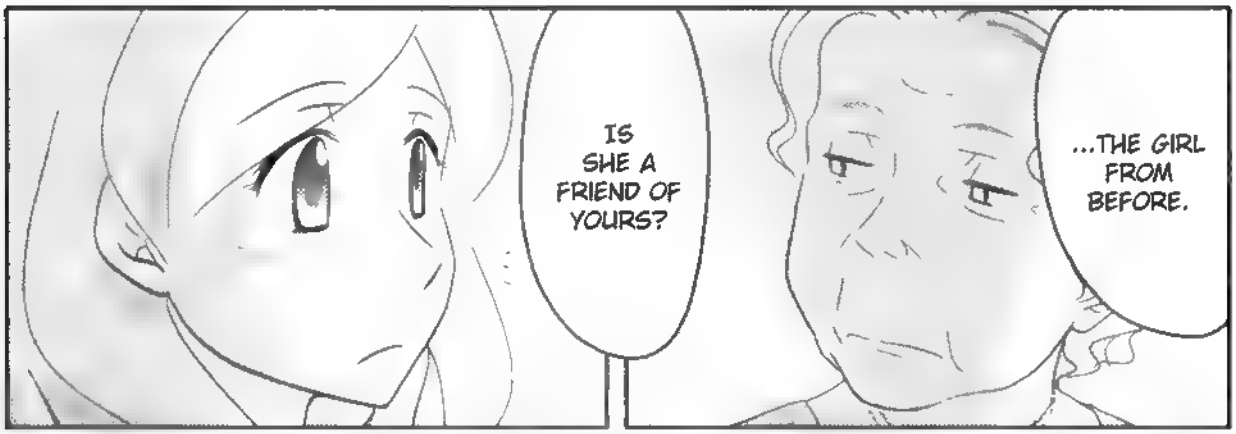

IT'S OKAY, SUMI-CHAN.
LIKE EVERYONE SAID, THE FLYERS WEREN'T REFERRING TO YOU.

AFTER ALL, SUMI-CHAN,
YOU'RE STILL CONSIDERED "NORMAL."

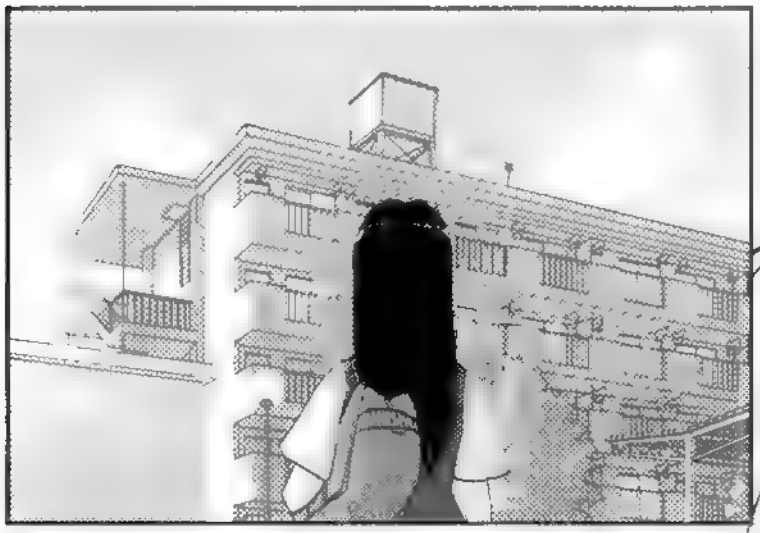
HEY, YOU!
NO, I...
AW, CRAP.
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, SNEAKING AROUND LIKE THAT!?
AH...
WHAT?

GRANDMA!?


OH MY GOODNESS.
THIS ROOM IS AS OUT-OF-CONTROL AS ALWAYS.
IT LOOKS EVEN MORE CRAMMED WITH BOOKS THAN THE LAST TIME I VISITED. AM I RIGHT?
...SOME OF THE NEW ONES BELONG TO ME...
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH LIVING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE TO CLEAN PROPERLY.
GOOD GRIEF, THAT NORIO.
HE INHERITED ALL OF HIS FATHER'S BAD TRAITS.
HE'S TRYING HARD AND DOING HIS BEST.
PRESS
I do all the cooking and cleaning and laundry... and stuff... like that... but...
Admittedly,
Err-


IS SHE A FRIEND OF YOURS?
...THE GIRL FROM BEFORE.

...YES.



A VERY IMPORTANT FRIEND.

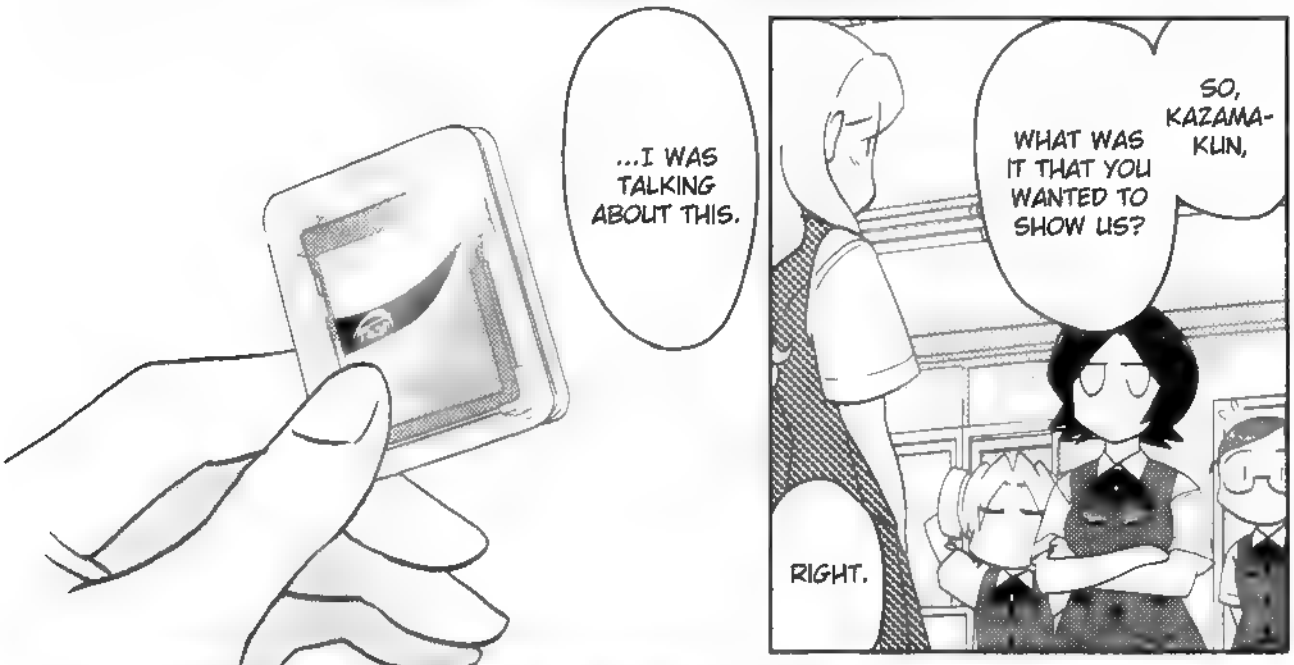
...I
didn't understand anything.
...I SEE.
THAT'S GOOD.
I mistakenly believed I understood.
I thought it was just my personal problem.
SO, GRANDMA, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
HM?
OH, YES.

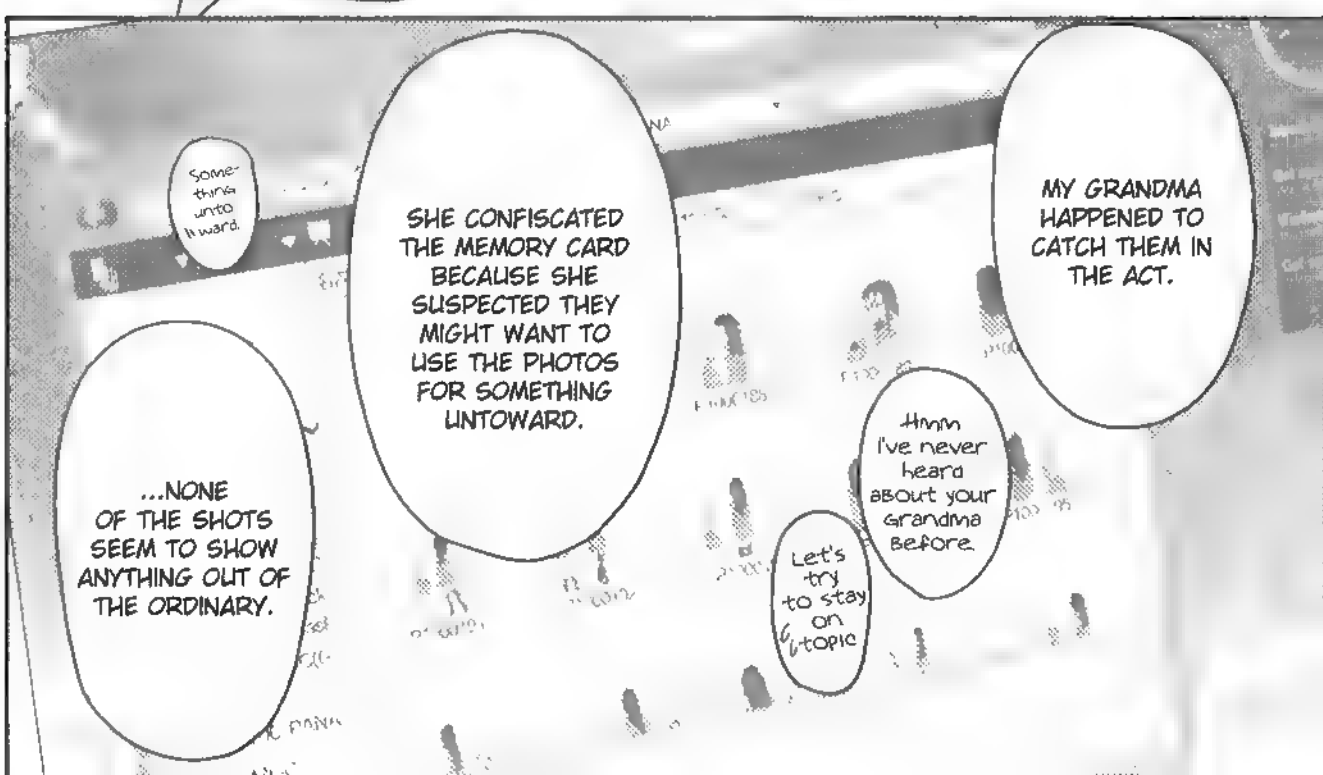
What are
the true implications

of loving
Kazama—?

HERE, HAVE A FLYER.
BUSTLING
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
HEY, HEY, IS THAT KUN FROM "CELEB TEEN"?
WHOA, IT'S REALLY HER!?
ARE YOU SERIOUS? WHY? HOW? DOES SHE GO TO OUR SCHOOL?
PLEASE TAKE 'EM.
'em?
AH, TH-THANKS.
Squeeee
...OUR SECRET WEAPON
Seriously? Seriously?
IS OFFICIALLY A HUGE SUCCESS.
Huh.

AFTER ALL, WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, COMMON FOLK HAVE A BIG SOFT SPOT FOR SUPERSTARS.
NAH, IT'S COOL. AT THIS POINT, WE'VE GOTTA BULLDOZE OUR WAY THROUGH.
I MEAN, CONSIDERING WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY. MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE LET THE GUYS CAMPAIGN INSTEAD...
WAS IT REALLY THE RIGHT THING TO DO?


...I WAS TALKING ABOUT THIS.
SO, KAZAMA-KUN,
WHAT WAS IT THAT YOU WANTED TO SHOW US?
RIGHT.


Something untoward.
SHE CONFISCATED THE MEMORY CARD BECAUSE SHE SUSPECTED THEY MIGHT WANT TO USE THE PHOTOS FOR SOMETHING UNTOWARD.
MY GRANDMA HAPPENED TO CATCH THEM IN THE ACT.
...NONE OF THE SHOTS SEEM TO SHOW ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
Hmm I've never heard about your grandma before.
Let's try to stay on topic

HONESTLY,
IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF I DON'T SPEND TOO MUCH TIME WITH SUMI-CHAN UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION.
She was so hesitant that she didn't even end up holding your hand.
THIS IS THE ONE TIME WE HAVE TO BE GRATEFUL FOR MURASAME-KUN'S LACK OF PROGRESS.
...REGARDLESS,
YOU DIMWIT. THE REAL ISSUE IS THAT PEOPLE WERE STALKING THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS PULL WOOL OVER THEIR EYES.
WINNING THE PRESIDENCY ISN'T WORTH CAUSING YOU GRIEF.
Pat
DON'T BE FOOLISH.

. . . . .

Dead Silence

THAT'S WHAT WE'VE COME TO DISCUSS WITH YOU, BOYS!

WHICH ONE OF YOU WILL VOLUNTEER TO BE MURASAME-KUN'S BOYFRIEND!?

THUMP

To-

Tomoe... chan?

ACTUALLY, HACHISUKA, THIS IS JUST A REGULAR HOMEROOM PERIOD.

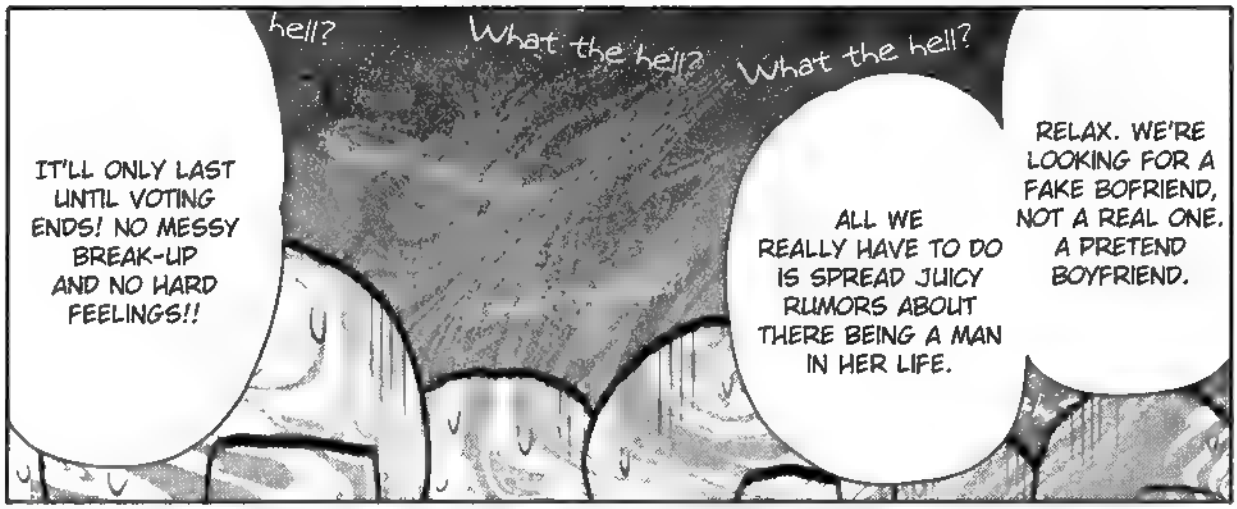
DON'T FORGET THAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HOLDING AN ULTRA TOP-SECRET MEETING.

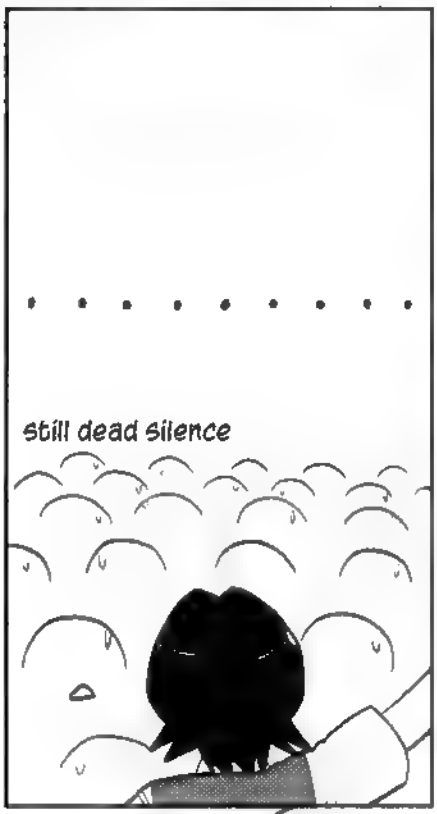
I was wondering what on earth you were planning to talk about.

So shush!

PLEASE QUIET DOWN.

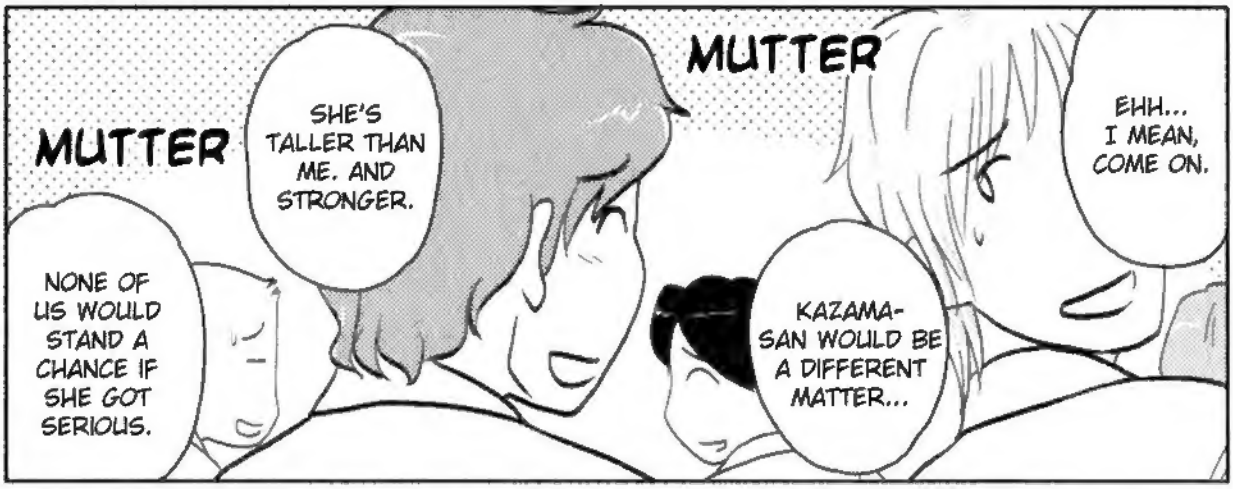
Ehhhhhh


hell?
What the hell?
What the hell?
IT'LL ONLY LAST UNTIL VOTING ENDS! NO MESSY BREAK-UP AND NO HARD FEELINGS!!
ALL WE REALLY HAVE TO DO IS SPREAD JUICY RUMORS ABOUT THERE BEING A MAN IN HER LIFE.
RELAX. WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FAKE BOFRIEND, NOT A REAL ONE. A PRETEND BOYFRIEND.


. . . . . .
still dead silence

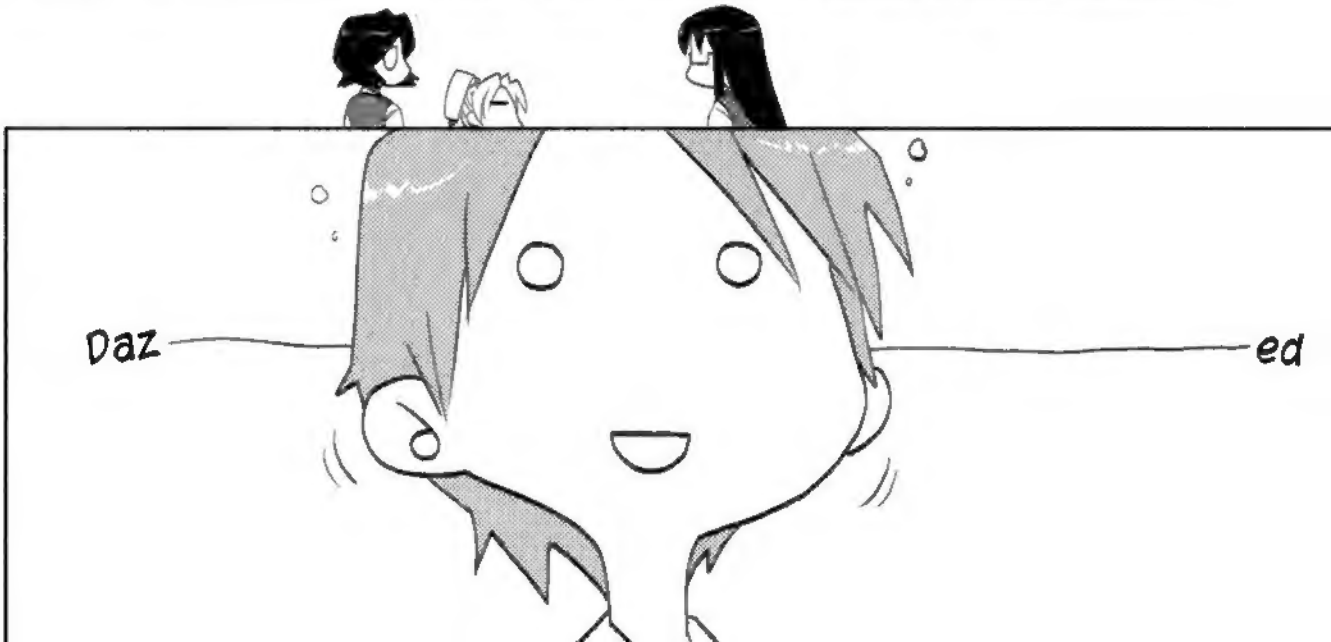
COME FORTH, O HEROIC SAVIOR!!
SMACK
WELL!? WHO'S GOING TO GO FOR IT?

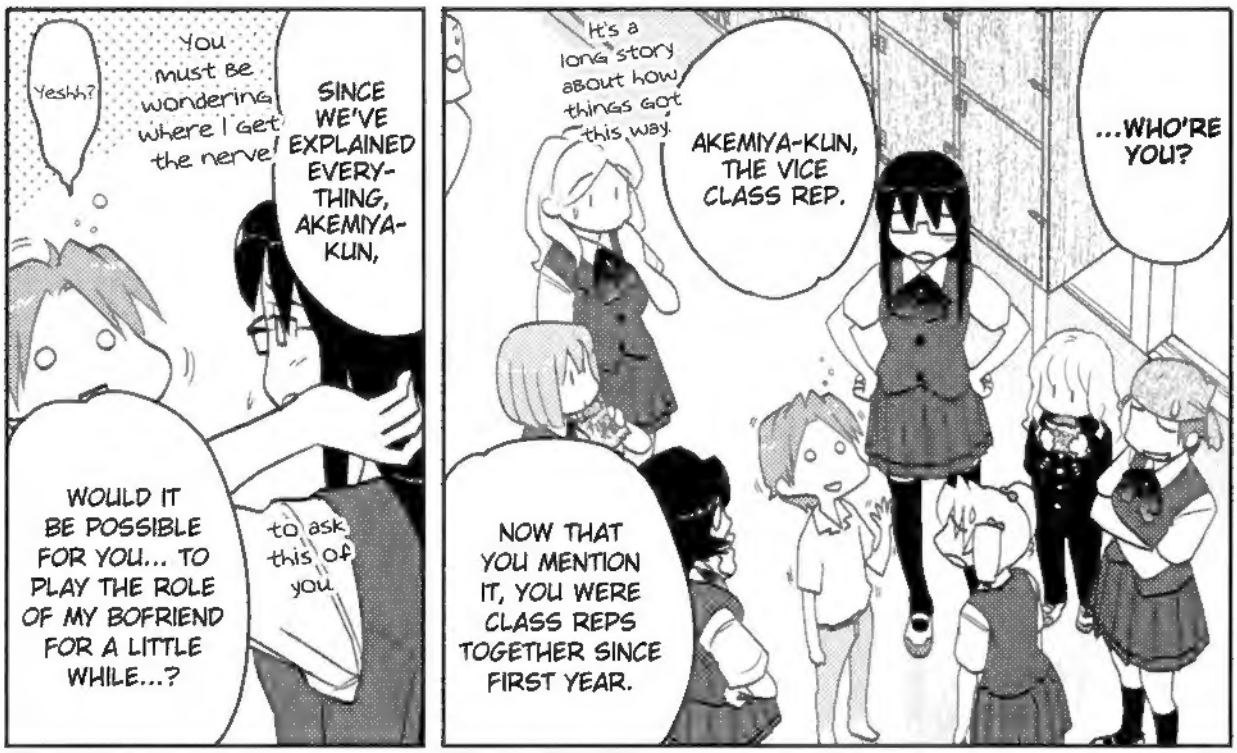
Not that I really give a whit whether or not guys like me.
What you're doing right now is actually kinda brutal.
...Yeah. But I already knew that.
...SO
PEOPLE HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR YOU, BUT THEY DON'T FIND YOU CRUSH-WORTHY.


MUTTER
MUTTER
SHE'S TALLER THAN ME. AND STRONGER.
NONE OF US WOULD STAND A CHANCE IF SHE GOT SERIOUS.
EHH... I MEAN, COME ON.
KAZAMA-SAN WOULD BE A DIFFERENT MATTER...

CAN'T YOU THINK OF ANYONE SUITABLE?
OH, GREAT, NOW THERE'S ALL THIS INFIGHTING.
THERE MUST BE AT LEAST ONE OR TWO GUYS OUT THERE WHO YOU COULD ASK FOR THIS KIND OF FAVOR...
jibber
jabber

HEY! THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR. WE'RE WORKING AS HARD AS THE REST OF YOU.
GEEZ. MAKE YOURSELVES USEFUL FOR ONCE, BOYS.
RIGHT ON. WHO DO YOU THINK GOT THE CULTURAL CLUBS TO SUPPORT OUR CAUSE?

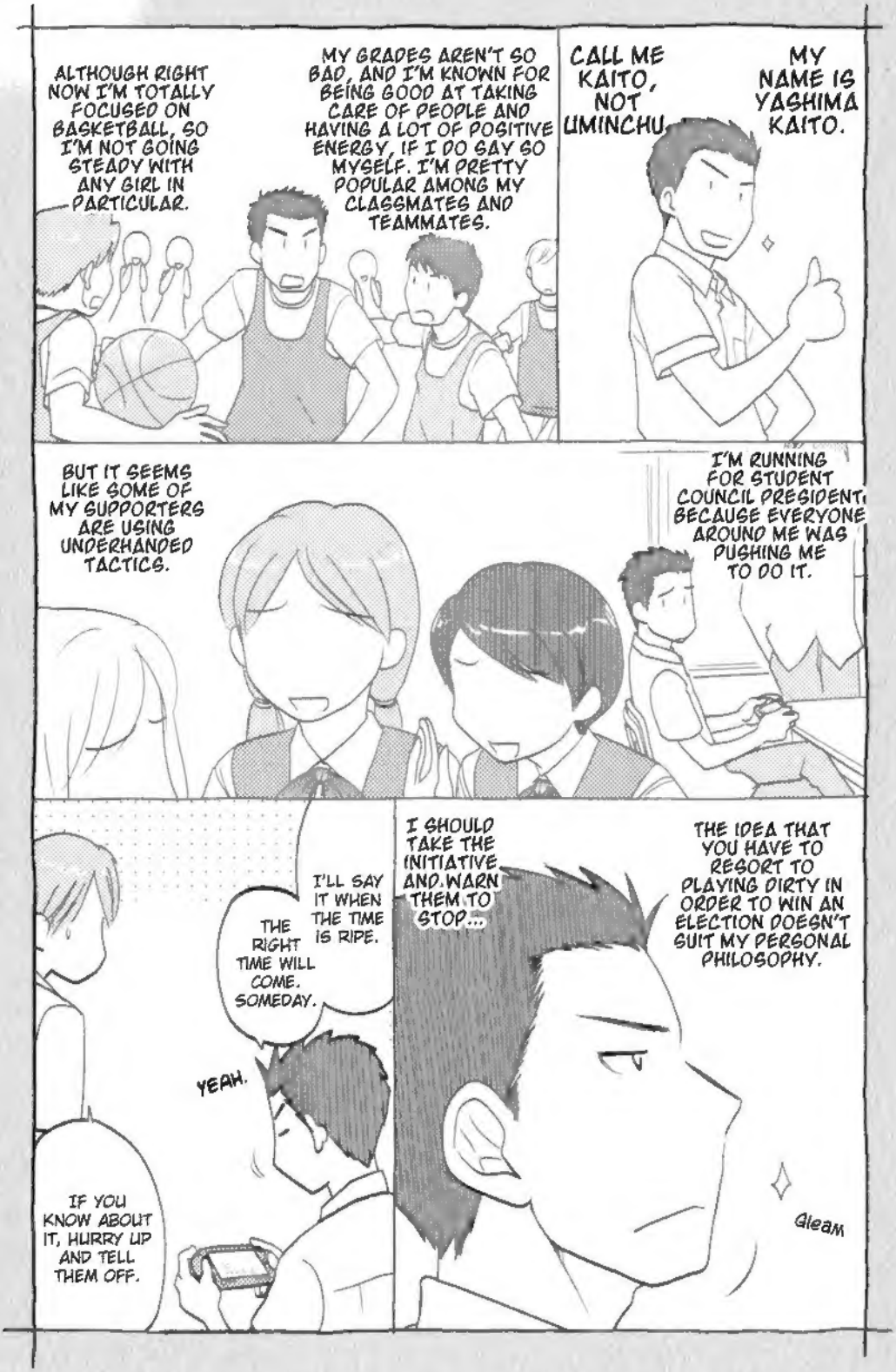

Daz
ed


Yeshh?
You must be wondering where I get the nerve!
SINCE WE'VE EXPLAINED EVERY-THING, AKEMIYA-KUN,
WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU... TO PLAY THE ROLE OF MY BOFRIEND FOR A LITTLE WHILE...?
to ask this of you.
It's a long story about how things got this way.
AKEMIYA-KUN, THE VICE CLASS REP.
...WHO'RE YOU?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOU WERE CLASS REPS TOGETHER SINCE FIRST YEAR.

SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT. I GUESS FOR NOW, THEY SHOULD GO ON A DATE.
WANNA LURE OUR ENEMIES INTO TRAILING AFTER THEM?
HMMM. GO HOME FROM SCHOOL WITH HER, THAT KIND OF THING?
WHAT KIND OF STUFF DOES A PRETEND BOYFRIEND HAVE TO DO, ANYWAY?

I'LL DO MY BEST!!
I
LOWER YOUR VOICE!
...YOU WANT ME TO MEET
POTENTIAL BRIDES...
HOHOHO
Thick pile
...ON A SIDE NOTE, THIS IS WHY KAZAMA'S GRANDMOTHER CAME TO VISIT...

Useless Addition #40


ALTHOUGH RIGHT NOW I'M TOTALLY FOCUSED ON BASKETBALL, SO I'M NOT GOING STEADY WITH ANY GIRL IN PARTICULAR.
MY GRADES AREN'T SO BAD, AND I'M KNOWN FOR BEING GOOD AT TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE AND HAVING A LOT OF POSITIVE ENERGY, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF. I'M PRETTY POPULAR AMONG MY CLASSMATES AND TEAMMATES.
MY NAME IS YASHIMA KAITO.
CALL ME KAITO, NOT UMINCHU.
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SOME OF MY SUPPORTERS ARE USING UNDERHANDED TACTICS.
I'M RUNNING FOR STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT BECAUSE EVERYONE AROUND ME WAS PUSHING ME TO DO IT.
I'LL SAY IT WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE.
THE RIGHT TIME WILL COME. SOMEDAY.
YEAH.
IF YOU KNOW ABOUT IT, HURRY UP AND TELL THEM OFF.
I SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND WARN THEM TO STOP...
THE IDEA THAT YOU HAVE TO RESORT TO PLAYING DIRTY IN ORDER TO WIN AN ELECTION DOESN'T SUIT MY PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY.
Gleam